War Diaries

1-2-41 ✩ 8-4-41.

Cont from rec K-4B

MOST SECRET.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E. boats. — Capt. D.16 sighted E boats early this morning off Yarmouth, but quickly lost contact.

Watch on HIPPER cruiser. — KELLY, KIPLING, KASHMIR and KELVIN returned to Plymouth at 1056 to-day from patrol off Brest. The HIPPER class cruiser was seen by air R/C, this morning at Brest, apparently either berthing or about to leave.

Enemy warships in Bight. — Air R/C today reported several large warships in the Heligoland Bight from 0120 onwards.

A.A. defence of western ports of U.K. and Portsmouth. — The Minister of Defence has given directions that the western ports of the U.K., on which our trade depends, should receive increased A.A. defence at highest priority. The reduction of A.A. defences of Scapa must be accepted. No guns will be withdrawn from defence of the Fleet Anchorage. C. in C. Portsmouth is asking for increased A.A. defence for Portsmouth.

British Air Activity.

20 Bomber Command aircraft attacked the Deutsche Werke Shipbuilding Yard at Kiel last night. An aircraft of Bomber Command claims a probable hit on a merchant vessel off the Dutch coast north of Ijmuiden to-day.

Special patrols were flown along the French Biscay coast and in the Bay of Biscay to-day, to locate the HIPPER class cruiser in the event of her sailing. R/C and 5 PRU flights were made to Brest but were unsuccessful.

/W.T.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (contd).

W/T. intelligence this afternoon suggested the movement of German Naval units from the Skagerrak northwards. Six Beaufort aircraft carried out a special sweep and at 2212 sighted 5 enemy destroyers with one larger unidentified vessel 70 miles west of Lym Fiord. An A/C claims to have torpedoed one of the destroyers.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. EMPIRE FROST in Convoy S.C. 23 bombed and sunk at 0205 S.W. of Milford Haven. A/P Vessel TYRANT was attacked at 0130 off the Strumbles but was not damaged.

SHERBROOKE reported being bombed this morning off Harwich, but no damage is reported.

S.S. ESSEX LANCE in Convoy F.S. 33 was bombed and disabled late this evening off Yarmouth.

Convoy F.N. was attacked at 2229 to-day off Orfordness. No ship was damaged.

An aircraft which attacked FOWEY'S convoy was shot down and the crew captured.

Air attack on Manchester, 2 ships sunk 9 damaged.

S.S. STELLA was sunk and CONTRACTOR, MARKHOR, HARDWICKE GRANGE, CORDILLERA, CLIFTON HALL, QUEEN MAUD, NOVELIST, SILVERELM and LONDON II were damaged, some slightly, in attack on Manchester area last night.

An attack with explosive incendiary bombs on the Dockyard Storage Area Frater this evening caused 3 casualties but only one slight fire.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation S.N.68B.

1st M.L. Squadron reported this operation (minelaying between Iceland and Faroes) completed, at 1147 today.

A few enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the S.W. coast last night.

MR. LINTHORST HOMAN (Dutch) was mined and slightly damaged off the Lizard this morning.

CAMROUX I was slightly damaged by a mine off Blyth to-day.

Mines were detonated to-day in the Thames Estuary, Swansea area, off the Humber and Milford Haven, several mines were found during sweeps between Dungeness and Beachy Head.

Shipping.

C. in C. America & West Indies reports that when outward bound convoys disperse all vessels at once switch on their wireless receivers and excessive mass oscillation results. He suggests watch to be set at staggered times after dispersal.

North Atlantic.

The Spanish authorities have ordered that the naval aircraft rescued by a Spanish ship and taken to Teneriffe is to be treated as a warship entering port for repairs and fuel, and a provisional stay of 24 hours from 1800/12 has been granted.

There are indications that the German tanker NORD ATLANTIC is preparing to sail from Vigo.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air raid on Malta.

The torpedo depot at Misida was hit during an air raid on Malta last night.

Lemnos.

N.A.,Athens, draws attention to the possibility of a German attack on Lemnos, where there is now no garrison and the landing ground is drying up.

Rhodes harbour was among the targets bombed by R.A.F. Wellingtons last night.

East Indies.

The Admiralty give notice that the small Bat-el-Mandeb Strait is dangerous to navigation and all vessels passing between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden should use the Large Strait.

Convoy.

Convoy U.S.9½, 5 ships with troops for Middle East, left Bombay this morning.

China.

Four Japanese Naval Tankers have been nominated to load diesel oil at Tarahan and there is suspicion that they may be used to fuel German raiders.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Raider Report.

At 0317 G.M.T. Canso Radio intercepted an S.O.S. from two unknown ships attacked by warship raider.

Australia.

Australian aircraft have searched the Timor Sea in case the pocket battleship should have proceeded from the Indian Ocean to the Far East by that route.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Speed in reporting E-Boats.

Attention is drawn to the vital importance of speed in reporting E.Boats. Instructions. (C. in C. Nore 1040/12).

Clyde/Iceland Ferry Service.

My 2251/28/2.
It is under consideration to start the fortnightly ferry service between the Clyde and Iceland on 2/4. This will entail an escort commitment of 2 destroyers for the whole of every alternate week.
2. Suggest that one additional Town should be allocated to R.A.M.L. who would then provide this escort from the 17th Division. A destroyer not yet told off to an escort group would be used for this purpose. Request your views. (D.O.D.H. 1616/12 to C. in C's H.F. and W.A).

M/S Department of VERNON. Proposed removal to Scotland.

VERNON 1655/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Defence of U.K.

Sanday A/A Guns.

Your 1756/10. Understand A.M.E. Station not in action. In view of other urgent commitments diversion to SANDAY hardly appears justified. Presume however Air Ministry will say whether protection required. (Dacoast Four 1725/12).
Your 1756/10. Air Ministry cannot agree. Request A.C.O.S. be instructed to dispose of two pdrs. now at Sanday in accordance with requirements to be signalled to him by A.A. Command. (Air Ministry 1740/12 to Adty).

/Portsmouth.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (contd).

Portsmouth A/A Defences.

The A.A. defences of Portsmouth and Southampton have been seriously depleted during the past six months.
There are to-day two battleships, one wight inch cruiser, and numerous other craft at Portsmouth, in addition to the large concentration of personnel in schools and establishments.
Probability of heavy bombing attacks in the coming months.
Brigadier 35th A.A. Brigade informs me that he has asked for additional H.A.A. batteries and G.L. sets with Vickers Predictors, on which night shooting depends. I strongly support. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1843/12 to Adty).

Scapa A/A Defences.

Your 2216/11.
2. Move necessitated by direction of Minister for Defence that A.A. defence of Western Ports, on which import trade of Great Britian is dependent, should receive increased A.A. defence at highest priority.
4. Guns to be withdrawn from Orkney will be taken from Skaebrae and Hatston area which will still have light A.A. guns.
No guns will be withdrawn from defence of Fleet Anchorage.
5. In view of needs of ports T.L. consider that this reduction must be accepted.
(V.C.N.S. 2033/12 to A.C.O.S).

Movements.

OTUS.

My 1031/11. Postponed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1001/12).

16 Eurekas.

Request you arrange to sail 16 Eurekas to Brightlingsea calling at Newhavenand Dover, sailing from Warsash 15/3. (A.C.N.S. H. 1002/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/TORBAY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

TORBAY.	F.O.S. 1804/11. TORBAY routed as follows. Escort to R/V at 056° 40' 010° at 0800/16. (C. in C. W.A. 1115/12 to TORBAY).
CACHALOT. TORBAY.	My 1803/15/2 para. C. Delete CACHALOT. Both CACHALOT and TORBAY are to join 3rd S/M flotilla. (F.O.S. 1136/12).
REVENGE. Escort.	Adty's 1302/11. Intend to sail KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING p.m./13th to arrive NAB at 0730/14. Two. In view of urgent requirements for destroyers in Channel intend three of 5th D.F. shall be detached to Plymouth at darkness/15. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to issue orders accordingly and to state if time of arrival of 5th D.F. at the Nab is not convenient; (C. in C. Plymouth 1536/12).
ERICA. SNAPDRAGON.	My 1747/15. ERICA and SNAPDRAGON should be sailed in company with O.G. 56 to Gibraltar. L.L. trials should if possible be carried out before sailing. (D.O.D.H. 1809/12).
RODNEY.	1945Z/12 see H.X. 114.
PENDRECHT.	Requesting fighter cover for damaged Dutch M/V PENDRECHT. Details. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2245/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of HIPPER Cruiser.

Your 1838/11. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0019/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Arrived 0845 KELLY KIPLING KASHMIR KELVIN. (C. in C. Plymouth 1056/12).

TREVETHOE (Torpedoed by E-Boat 11/3).

Sunk in 052° 46' 30" N. 001° 56' 40" E.
Have 39 survivors on board one? missing.
Am rejoining convoy. (PUFFIN 0055/12).
Tug is being sent to assist TREVETHOE.
(C. in C. Nore 0121/12 to D.16).

2 E-Boats off Yarmouth.

2 enemy E-Boats position 52° 32' N. 2° 06' E. (Capt D.16 0223/12).
My 0223 lost cntact (Capt D. 16 0235/12).

A/P Patrols

Request special A/P patrols quoted in my 1026/10 be operated again tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 0934/12 to F.O. Yarmouth and 0936/12 to F.O. Humber).
Your 0934/12. Following trawlers detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1452/12 to C. in C. Nore).

ARGUS Operation "Winch".

ARGUS is to cease training duties forthwith and disembark training aircraft in preparation for a ferrying trip. 2 Skuas and 12 Hurricanes will be embarked by lighter from Abbotsinch. No Swordfish will be embarked. ARGUS is to be ready to sail on 18/3. (A.C.N.S.F. 1346/12).
My 1346/12. Code name for this operation WINCH. (D.N.A.D. 1821/12 to ARGUS).

Operation Q.D.

Weather permitting operation QD will be carried out to-day. If not possible at sunset, operation will be carried out later if weather improves. (C. in C. Nore 1535/12).

5th Escort Group anti U-Boat Operation.

5th Escort Group sailing tomorrow to meet H.X. 112 have been given discretion to simulate presence of merchant ships within Area 57° and 58° N. and 13° and 18° W. if time permits on passage, with a view to drawing attack by U Boat. Signals may be made as from Norwegian Tanker HENNY.
Call Sign L C P E. Any distress or other Message from this Call Sign made during period 2000/13 and 2359/14 should be disregarded. Other ruses may include oscilating on 500 k/cs., puffs of smoke and firing star shell. (C. in C. W.A. 1838/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrols STAND and SLEEVE commence 0330/12. BERT 0540/12 UNST 0700/12. FAIR 0730/12. S.A.3 1130/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0316/12). Patrol stand being flown 1830 to 2359. Norge coast sweep Hangesund to Blaavand by six Beauforts, 1900/12 to 0020/13. (C. in C. Rosyth 2005/12).

Kiel. Bremerhaven.

On night 11/12. Twenty Wellingtons attacked the Deutsche Werke shipbuilding yards at Kiel. Many bursts seen. One large red fire observed.
Two Wellingtons attacked the industrial centre at Kiel. Bursts seen in the town and one mile to the North West.
Two Wellingtons attacked warehouses at Bremerhaven where bursts were seen and white smoke. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/12).

Attack on Enemy Convoy.

Aircraft reports having attacked escorted enemy convoy of 2 destroyers and 6 merchant vessels with torpedoes 30' W.S.W. Lister at 2125/12. No hits. (Pitreavie 2125/12)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy SC.23. EMPIRE FROST. (British, 7005 Tons) Bombed.

A/S Trawler ABERDEEN reports EMPIRE FROST bombed and damaged in Engine Room at 0230 in 51° 33' N. 5° 30' W. Rescue Tug SEINE and A/S Trawler LINCOLNSHIRE with Salvage Vessel INDEFATIGABLE proceeding to assistance. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0415/12th)
EMPIRE FROST S.C. 23 hit by bomb at 0205/12 about 15 miles S.S.E. of Milford Haven. ABERDEEN (?engage in) standing by. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1700/12).
Following received. EMPIRE GEMSBUCK reports saving 27 crew EMPIRE FROST bombed and sunk by seaplane 051° 37' 15" N. 005° 34' 15" W. One of crew slightly injured. Captain, mate and eight of crew received by a patrol vessel. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1715/12).

/SHERBROOKE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

SHERBROOKE. (British, 2052 Tons) bombed.	One mile North West of Rough Buoy SHERBROOKE bombed. (Liverpool W/T 0931/12).
TYRANT.	(A/P Vessel) Reports at 0130 being attacked by aircraft off Strumbles. Two bombs missed no damage no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1136/12).
LIBRA. (Bombed on 10/3).	(Norwegian, 1536 Tons) Attacked by 2 enemy planes in 52° 5' N. 5° 51' W. at 1645/10 damaged by near miss. Engines displaced and 1 of crew slightly wounded. Vessel arrived Swansea in tow. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1746/12).
Convoy F.N. Odd.	Help Convoy Pilot in 51° 59' N. 1° 44° E. (SOUTHDOWN 2000/12). Help convoy "PILOT" in 52° 4' N. 1° 49'E. (SOUTHDOWN 2229/12). 4 Bombs No damage. (SOUTHDOWN 2235/12).
Convoy F.S.33. ESSEX LANCE. (British, 6625 Tons) bombed.	IMMEDIATE. If ESEX LANCE is capable of steaming she should proceed to Sothend. Report if tugs are required. (C. in C. Nore 2145/12 to COVENTRY CITY). Two tugs leaving Yarmouth to assist ESSEX LANCE bombed near 57A buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2217/12 to HOLDERNESS). Departure Tug KROOMAN at 2245 and Tug DIVERSION with Dootor at 2335 both to assist ESSEX LANCE. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2340/12). If possible anchor ESSEX LANCE till tug arrives and remain in company. If seaworthy order tow to Humber or Southend whichever most expedient, report action taken. Fighter protection arranged daylight. Code word ALPHA (X). (C. in C. Nore 2345/12 to COVENTRY CITY).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Chicken Rock.

Master of LANCASHIRE COAST reports heard and felt a dull underwater explosion in 10 miles North West Chicken Rock, at 2020/10. Nothing was seen of any disturbance in the water. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0946/12).

S.N.68B.

Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1147/11).
Arrival Port S.A. R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC D.4. in COSSACK, ZULU, MAORI and ST. MARYS.
(TRELAWNEY 2359/12).
NIGERIA arrived Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 2105/12).

S.N.100.

Request you will sail two trawlers from Stornoway to Port Z.A. forthwith to complete clearance of S.N.100 under the direction of TRELAWNEY.
(D.M.S. 1202/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 1202/12. Minesweeping Flotilla is at sea but orders have been given to divert two trawlers forthwith to port Z.A.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1637/12 to Admty).

Milford Haven.

Mines detonated off St. Ann's Head. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1229/12).

Thames Estuary.

One S.A. mine detonated at 1110/12 in 270° North Yantlet Gate Vessel 1 mile.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 1340/12).
Summary of aircraft activity in Thames Estuary for night 11/12th March.
A number of aircraft passed over the Estuary between 2030 and 2315. An explosion occurred at 2031 in approx. 095 degs. 2 miles from Shoeburyness which was a bomb or mine exploding on surface.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1715/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Dungeness to Portsmouth. Clearance Sweep.

My 2003/11. Re berthing etc. of 1st M.S.F.
(D.M.S. 1356/12).
Admty 1356/12. Report on the sweep and his intentions.
(S.O. 1st M/S F. 1703/12).
Your 1610/12th. Not possible to arrive Newhaven by 1900/13. Request permission to remain at Dungeness for tonight and continue clearance after arrival of stores.
(S.O. 1st M.S.F. 1737/12).
Strong easterlies forecast. Proceed to Newhaven arriving 0800 tomorrow.
(V.A.Dover, 2136/12 to S.O.1st M/S F.)
A.M. 1356/12. Flotilla can be berthed at Newhaven subject to state of the tide for entering and leaving.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1907/12).

Harwich Area Sweep.

My 1541/12/3. Intend sailing M.M.S.1 and M.M.S.8 so as to sweep ahead with S/A gear sweepers being one mile apart in line ahead thence proceeding into Sheerness.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1558/12/3).

Search off Needles.

Before entering by Needles Buoy Channel you are to carry out search of area bound by line joining following, points.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1656/12 to BANGOR).

Barry.

Red mine detonated by double "L" 194° 1.8 miles from Barry West Pier Light.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1720/12).

Milford Haven.

Four mines detonated today by M/S Trawler. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1755/12).

B.S.51.

My 1233/10. 20th D.F. are to remain under the orders of the C.in C. Portsmouth until required for operations detailed in my 1237/11.

2. C.in C. Nore is requested to provide escort for operation B.S.51 from local resources.

/3.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

B.S.51. (Contd.)

3. If practicable S.O. of escort should be given the opportunity to confer with C.O. TEVIOT BANK prior to departure of latter from Immingham. (D.D.O.D. M. 1808/12). Admiralty's 1808/12. KITTIWAKE and F.S. LA MELPOMENE will form escort for B.S.51. (C.in C. Nore, 2200/12).

Humber.

The following four mines were exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1832/12).

Q.Z.X.313.

Clearance operation by five Oropesa Trawlers in Q.Z.X. 313 during 11th and 12th March. Nine mines found. Details. (V.A.Dover, 1937/12).

Procedure for minesweepers sweeping ahead of convoys.

2. If you concur request you will issue the necessary instructions. (D.M.S. 2206/12 to C.in C. Nore, Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

Naval Units, and M/V's.

W/T Intelligence suggests movement of German Naval Units from Skagerrak Northward. F.O.(S) 1946/10 may refer. (F.O.S. 1504/12 to S/M's Area A). Night 11/12 Mar. Kiel Canal, one to two miles west of Haltenau lock, 0500 hrs large stationary Warship believed of SCHARNHORST type, ship fired at Wellington. Vlieland, 0608 hrs. large Warship steaming N.E.10 miles off coast of Island. Heligoland, 0520 hrs. Warship one mile S.E. of harbour, S.E. end of main island steaming slowly east. Halfway between Cuxhaven and Heligoland 0510 hrs. five possible destroyers steaming East.

/at 0425/12

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

At 0425/12 in 53° 55'N., 8° 13'E. Convoy of nine ships heading East. East of Holtenau Lock, large concentration of 30/40 unidentified vessels. Wangerooge at 0400/12 three stationary ships lying N.W. to S.E. in line astern largest about 1,000 tons believed M/V's. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/12).

Main Units.

Preliminary R/C of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven today. Results. (D.D.I.C. 1853/12).

Enemy Coastal Routes.

Information obtained and confirmed from Officers of Finnish KASTELHOLM indicates that routes of ships bound North and South from Nordkyn to Tromso in October 1940 and said to be followed still is as follows. Pilots are taken or dropped at Honningsvaag. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 2003/12).

12 E/Boats off Helder.

A/C reports sighting 12 E/B's 30' West of Dan Helder at 1220/12, steering South at high speed. 2 Merchant ships were also seen in the vicinity. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12).

BOCKENHEIM
TARONGA.

My 1130/6 and 1146/12. It is now reported that one of these ships will probably leave about 20th Marchand that that the other was bunkering on 11/3. and may leave at any moment. A.2. (D.D.I.C. 2332/12).

Technical.

Smoke Screens at Rosyth.

Desire to ascertain whether Rosyth Dockyard can be efficiently protected by smoke screens with the wind in the South West. Proposals for test. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1710/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

REVENGE D.G. Ranging.	It will not be possible to re-range REVENGE before sailing. Proposals. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 2023/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

A.L.M's. For N.C.S.O's. In future contents only of Admiralty lettered messages received in code are to be communicated and verbatim copies are never to be supplied. (D.T.D. 1249/12 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

W/T Oscillation. Excessive mass oscillation from ships' receivers after convoy dispersal. (See America and W.Indies).

A/A defects. Loch Ewe. To assist in A/A defence of shipping in Loch Ewe, arrange for 4 merchant ships present at any one time to act as A/A guardships at immediate notice. (C.in C. W.A. to N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1528/16).

Escort in W.Approaches. My 1705/6. These instructions are to be applied to all M/V's under 15 knots of 1600 tons and above and including independent M/V's routed homewards not calling at Belfast or Clyde. They do not apply to motor vessels capable of minimum 10 knots which will be provided with escort when possible.
(C.in C. W.A. 1728/12 to F.O.I.C's N.O.I.C's).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

TACOMA STAR.	Now at Oban with damaged refrigerating machinery. Request she be ordered urgently to Liverpool in order to save cargo. (D.T.D. 1357/12 to C.in C. W.A.) My 1357/12. TACOMA STAR damage was to main engine. If tomorrows trial successful ship should proceed London if unsuccessful Liverpool escorted. (D.T.D. 2155/12).
KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE.	War involved on leaving harbour in a collision which involved considerable Admiralty liabilities. Report suggests incident due to turbine defects and jamming of steering gear. Request this may be investigated and report forwarded. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1620/12).
TAKU.	Add to my 1455/12. TAKU in tow of SALVONIA from Londonderry to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1701/12).
RESTIGOUCHE.	My 1201/12. RESTIGOUCHE in collision and cannot now sail. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1750/12).
BALTARA. (Broke down 5/3).	S.S. TREVONIAN now anchoring Bangor Bay, has 12 survivors from S.S. BALTARA. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1822/12).
JERSEY.	Dockyard work unavoidably delayed. It is not now anticipated that JERSEY will be ready for sea before 27/3 at earliest. (JERSEY 1830/12).
CORINIA.	My 1946/10. Now salved. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1938/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raider Situation. My 1738/10. Indian Ocean First Sentence. For AUSTRALIA read CANBERRA.
(2) COBURG left Massawa 21/2 and was sunk with KETTY BROVIG on 4/3.
(D.D.I.C. 1615/12).

North Atlantic.

French M.V. escorted. French destroyer CYCLONE Class escorting fully laden French merchant ships THISBE in 035° 37' N. 009° ? 38' W. course 140° 8 knots.
(SHEFFIELD, 1000/12, to F.O.C.N.A.).

Orange Shipments, S. Spain. Your 1221/9. Very desirable to encourage British trade in area and propaganda value of appearance of Red Ensign should be great. In event of enemy interference, obvious naval assistance would have to come from Gibraltar, although Valencia is nearly 400 miles off my station.
In view of uncertainty whether any naval forces would be available immediately, I agree with proposed restrictions as to number.
S.S. POLO sails for Candia 12/3, routed in territorial waters.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1758/12 to Admty.)
/ Repetition of 1953/8 re Shipments of oranges from South Spain.

DELPHINIUM. Intend to sail for Freetown p.m./16 for fitting out with tropical equipment at Simonstown, in accordance with Admty.1747/15/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1802/12, to C.in C. S.A.).

A/C salved at Teneriffe My 1900/11 Spanish Authorities have ordered that aeroplane be treated as warship entering port for repairs and refuel. Aeroplane and crew have been landed. Provisional stay of 24 hours from 1800/12 has been granted pending proof of necessity of repairs. Local Authorities will determine length of stay permissible after examining aeroplane a.m./13.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1858/12, to F.O.C.N.A.).

/ Your 1006/10. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

A/C salved at Teneriffe. (Contd.)

Your 1006/10. Consul and pilot report plane is to be treated as warship. Captain of Port gave 24 hours to leave from 1800 but Captain General has granted extra time for retrospective repairs. New air screw essential to fly. Spanish air experts to decide tomorrow time allowable.
How long to send air screw? If time necessary not granted plane could be taxied out to be picked up.
British M.V. in Teneriffe destination Las Palmas, doubtful whether could hoist in plane. (N.A. Madrid, 1909/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1909/12. If you think best submit you order Master British Ship at Teneriffe to embark plane.
If delay in arrival of air screw is great German pressure may be too much for Spaniards. (N.A. Madrid, 2026/12).

NORD ATLANTIC.

Indications that she is making preparations for sailing.
(Consul, Vigo, 1945/12, to D.N.I.).

BANGKOK.

My 0953/11 (BANGKOK to be intercepted if not escorted). Reported BANGKOK sailed from Dakar for Marseilles on or shortly before 10/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 2107/12, to N.A. Stn.).

Enemy Unit.

My 1608/11. Further bearings on 4595 kc/s and 5600 kc/s at 2012/12 G.M.T. and 2032/12 G.M.T. respectively confirm the presence of enemy unit, probable surface craft, between Azores and Newfoundland.
(D.D.I.C. 2235/12 to C.in C. H.F. W.A. etc.).

South Atlantic.

PACIFIC
MASIRAW

Overdue shipping, my 0958/10. Swedish PACIFIC and British MASIRAW arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I., Capetown, 0932B/12).

DAGEID

Cancel my 0718/10. Stranded Malela, Congo River, 5/3. Ship not in danger and now unloading and refloating.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0946/12 to Admty.).

/ GROCTEKERK ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

GROOTEKERK — Overdue shipping. GROOTEKERK due Freetown 7/3 from Swansea 18/2 not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1027N/12).

Shipping Diversion. — In view of recent hyper (? HIPPER) reports British ships TUSCAN STAR and ROCHESTER CASTLE have been diverted to Freetown for rerouteing. (C.in C. S.A. 1147N/12, to Admty.).

S.L.68. — My 1317/10 para. 3. Request early information when and where MAURITIUS would relieve MALAYA. (D.O.D. (F) 1140/12, to C.in C. S.A.). Reply. C.in C. S.A., 1117N/12. See Operations Volume.

Route Positions for M.V's. — Your 1852/8. Reply. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1139/12, to Admty.).

Shipping Routes. — Comply with Admty. 1318/11/3/1941, to C.in C. S.A. (routes given to ships must be signalled to Admty.) (C.in C. S.A., 1208/12, to N.C.S.O.Capetown).

ABGARA — Your 1823/10.(?Whether master ABGARA is taking orders from owner in Germany.) Master receives messages as reported in my 1149/5 ABGARA sailed today for Canada with ore. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1216/12).

MAURITIUS MALAYA — MAURITIUS will escort SL 68 from Freetown until MALAYA can overtake, then return to refuel and sail to relieve MALAYA as in my 1117/12. (C.in C. S.A., 1323N/12, to Admty.).

S.L.68 escorts. — Dep. 1830/12 CANTON as Ocean Escort to Convoy SL 68 and thence in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1253N/11/3. Also sailed MAURITIUS as additional escort in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1333N/12/3. Local A/S escort CALENDULA, MARGUERITE, H.M. Trawler KELT. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1845N/12, to Admty).

/ Falklands Defences. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Falklands Defences. — R.A.S.A.D's 1342/5/3. I concur that defences of Falklands should be strengthened by means proposed or equivalent alternative. (C.in C. S.A., 2245/12, to Admty.).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and COMMANDANT DUBOC. — Cancel A.T. 1636/7. Instructions contained in A.T. 1832/6 are to stand. (D.O.D.(F) 2331/12 to C.in C. S.A., C.in C. E.I.).

Mediterranean.

Convoy A.S.17. — Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1049/12).

Tripoli bombed. — Night 10/11 March 3 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1128/12.).

Convoy A.C.5. — Sailed 0600/12. COVENTRY for Suda Bay remainder Piraeus. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1153/12).

A.N.18. — Arrived Piraeus 11/3. (N.C.S.O. Piracus, 1200/12).

A.N.19. — Alexandria section. 2300/11, 1 ship Valetta, 3 Piraeus. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1217/12).

Lemnos. — Now no garrison on Lemnos and landing ground is drying up rapidly. Have been discussing with British G.O.C. and A.O.C. possibility of German attack there. (N.A. Athens, 1253/12, to C.in C. Med., D.N.I)

ILLUSTRIOUS — Your 0109/11. Reply. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 1403/12, to Admty.).

UPRIGHT. — Cancel my 1125/8. Tanker 10 miles ahead of large merchant ship passed Kelibia Roads 0915B/12 but possibly neutral. Leave patrol as necessary and proceed to position 033° 40' 012° 45'. If nothing sighted by 1200/13 proceed Malta. (Cdr. S.1, 1615/12, to UPRIGHT).

/ Malta Air Raid. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Raids. Night 11/12. 7 to 10 enemy aircraft over. 1 bomb hit torpedo depot Misida. Casualties all civilians. (H.Q., Med., 1640/12).

Germans in Bulgaria. Turkish General Staff report number of German Naval Officers and ratings and lorries with naval markings passing through Sofia presumably for Bourgas. (N.A. Angora, 1836/12, to D.N.I.).

Suez Canal, obstruction. Canal Company require 15 working days from and including 13/3 to widen channel past wreck sufficient for EAGLE to pass. Work is subject to delay due to enemy minelaying. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1921/12, to C.in C.E.I.)

A.G.5. DECOY left Alexandria 2100/12 to join convoy A.G.5. (Capt. S.1, 2121/12, to TRIUMPH).

Operation "Lustre". CLAN MACAULAY. Circumstances necessitating retention of CLAN MACAULAY for early stages of "LUSTRE" are realised, but glad if this ship can be replaced as soon as another vessel becomes available. (D.S.T. 2338/12, to P.S.T.O. Egypt.).

East Indies.

Scuttling of Italian Ships. M.E. suggest Italian authorities in Eritrea be informed now that if any Merchant vessels are scuttled at Massowa or Assab it will not be possible for us to guarantee food through for the Civil population. Request action be taken. (C.in C. E.I., 0520/12, to Admty.)

MOGAMIGAWA MARU. Your 0802/10/10/40 Japanese MOGAMIGAWA MARU Arrived Rangoon 12/3 detained. Investigations being made. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon, 06322/12, to C.in C. E.I.).

KETTY BROVIG. Ref. 0714/11 from N.O.I.C. Mauritius (re Norwegian Officers taken from Norwegian tanker KETTY BROVIG). Request disposal Norwegian and Chinese. (C.in C. E.I., 07142/12 to Admty.).

/ KONGSIANG. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

KONGSIANG. Your 1837/11 (Request for news) Vessel arrived 19/2 report Vosca 19th. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0750Z/12.).

Oporation. Proposed against a certain enemy base. (C.in C. E.I., 0752Z/12 to A.O.C.in C. M.E.) See Operations Volume.

U.S.9½. Bombay departure 0915Z/12 CAPETOWN escorting U.S.9½. (S.O.I., Bombay, 0916Z/12.).

RANGITIKI Your 2201/7. RANGITIKI suitable. Is ship to be detained Bombay after completion of repairs for use of U.S.10 ? (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1223Z/12, to D. of S.T.).

SHROPSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS Your 1032/11. If SHROPSHIRE's aircraft cannot be repaired in time your proposal D is to be adopted. Flying Crew is being sent from U.K. for appointment as necessary on station. If possible ILLUSTRIOUS should embark one Walrus at Aden for transfer to Simonstown. (D.N.A.D. 1347/12 to C.in C. E.I.).

B.F.18½ Left 0500Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1625Z/12).

Mines,
Bab-el-Mandeb. Your 1054/10. Considered preferable not to five details you suggest and a warning in following general terms is being issued to neutral Governments:-
"The Admiralty give notice that the Small Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb is dangerous to navigation, and that all vessels passing between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden should proceed by way of the Large Strait. Vessels which disregard this warning do so at their risk and peril".
Warning will also be broadcast by B.B.C. at 1200 G.M.T./13; request you arrange for similar warning to be broadcast not before this time. (Head of M. 1836/12 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

RANTAUPANDJANG — Dutch, due Sabang 8/3 from Durban not arrived. (S.O.I., Singapore, 07352/12, to C.in C. China.).

AQUITANIA — My 0328/10, intend to dock AQUITANIA 14/3. If not taken in hand now for thorough overhaul vide your 0120/8 will undock 21/3 and so will not be available before ILE DE FRANCE. Request immediate decision whether thorough overhaul is to be undertaken now. (A.S., Singapore, 07482/12).

Japanese Tankers. — Mitsui have nominated Naval Tankers IRO, TSURUMI, SATA and ONDA to load approx. 8,000 tons each diesel oil at Tarakan between 5/4 and 16/4. Dutch Naval Authorities in London have telegraphed Naval C.in C., N.E.I., that suspicion exists they may be used to fuel German raiders.
They suggest trying to delay these tankers, or shadowing them with submarines.
Keep in touch with Dutch C.in C. and report developments.
(D. of P. 1216/12, to C.in C. China.).

Norwegian SILJESTAD. — Have you news? Due Yokohama.
(D.T.D. 1700/12, to Consul Gen., Kobe.).

America and West Indies.

Raider Report. — Following from Canso Radio (begins)
Intercepted at 0317 G.M.T. unknown two ships attacked by Warship Raider. Very weak signals, interference and atmospherics (ends).
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1011/12, to C.in C.A.W.I.).

PRINCE DAVID — My 1242/9. In event of an encounter with an enemy supply ship, do not break W/T silence to report until at least 500 miles clear unless assistance is required or other enemy forces are sighted.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1012/12, to PRINCE DAVID.).

/ T.C.10. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

T.C.10.	Your 0135/11, (N.T. in W.D.). Docking could be arranged in a U.S. port and completed in ample time to comply with your 2349/12. Beatty however fears that Italians may make claim on ship if she goes to a U.S. port. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1043/12, to D. of S.T.).
EMPRESS OF ASIA	Your 1043/11. Position E 58.52 N. 006.45 W. arrival 58.15 N. in N. Minch at 0600 B.S.T./17. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1048/12, to Admty.).
Curacoa Aruba, censorship.	Lack of censorship causing considerable concern. Suggestion.(C.in C. A.W.I. 1213/12 to Admty.). Your 1610/11 (re use of cypher to ensure security of commercial cables). Message for Notraship London 5/2, to Master BIRKENES, at Curacao, indicating destination and made in P/L, was handed to S.B.N.O. with comment 'How can London let this through'. Such lapses hamper representations referred to in my 1213/12 (re censorship in Curacoa and Aruba) (C.in C. A.W.I., 1223/12, to Admty.).
U.S. Constguard Cutters.	Your 1815/7. Navy Dept. now inform me with modification that offer was made under misapprehension. Matter is still under discussion. In any case, ten originally offered would not have been in addition to those referred to in Gleam telegram. My 1729/27 was drafted in collaboration with A.C.N.S. I am of opinion there has been some misunderstanding between Navy Dept. and Coastguard. (N.A. Washington, 1710/12, to Admty.).
W/T Receivers, Oscillation.	Reported that when outward bound convoys disperse all vessels at once switch on their wireless receivers, and that excessive mass oscillation immediately results. Suggest ships with re-radiating receivers be ordered to set watch at staggered times after dispersal, risk due to such ships keeping no watch for some hours being accepted. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1747/12, to Admty.).
T.C.10.	My 1821/7. In addition to BATORY only ship which can be made available for T.C.10 is GEORGIC. Proposed sailing date from Halifax of T.C.10. (D.S.T. 2349/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Timor Sea Searched.	Your 0115/5 (search for Pocket Battleship in Timor Sea area) operation completed. 6 a/c employed. Visibility throughout excellent to seaward except 10/3 when haze restricted it to apprcx. 20 miles. Searches considered efficient. (A.C.N.B., 0413/12, to Admty.).
U.S.10, ILE DE FRANCE.	In view of amended date of readiness of ILE DE FRANCE reported in A.S. Singapore's 0328/10 request report whether delay to sailing date of U.S.10. could be reduced by embarking ILE DE FRANCE at Fremantle. (D.S.T., 2334/12, to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FRODI.

Icelandic 97 tons. Following received from Icelandic trawler SKAFTFELLINGUR. Met the FRODI, I.S.454 at 2000 hours, 90 nautical miles S.E. ¾ E. of Vestman Islands. She has been attacked by a U-Boat last night. (Ends). FRODI was on way to Vestman Islands. Nothing further known at present. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 0041/12, to Admty.). My 0041/12. Icelandic drifter FRODI, R.E.454, apparently had 3 attacks from German Submarine between 0440 and 0600/11. Appears to have been machine-gunned from starboard side and 1 side bridge was carried away by shell fired from port side. Captain, mate and 3 of crew killed. Chief engineer wounded. 4 unwanded survivors of crew have only vague idea of locality of attack, but it occurred about 200 miles from Reykjavik on way to Fleetwood. (F.O. Iceland, 1859/12 to Admty.).

RUNSWICK

British 3970 tons. Following from St. Paul's Island (begins) "3388 47° 03' N. 46° 38' W. RUNSWICK chased by submarine" Bearing 92° approx. weak signal (Ends). RESOLUTION sends similar report, submarine on surface, 1139 G.M.T. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1009/12, to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Ships Attacked.

JONATHAN HOLT

Following from Philadelphia:-
Br. JONATHAN HOLT was sunk by enemy action 24/2. approx. One survivor landed here. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1716/12, to Admty.).

S/M's Reported.

1619.

D/F bearings at 1619 indicate enemy unit possibly Italian s/m was near 043° 39' N. 011° 30' W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2122/12, to N.A. Stn.).
D/F at 2026/12. Position of Italian U/Boat was 58° 30' N. 26° W. unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2131/12).

/ 0207. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

0207. 55° - 57° N., E. of 20° W., very indefinite (D.S. 554).

0811. 57.30 N., 17° W., position indefinite (D.S. 554).

0715. N. of 63° N., 1° to 4° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 554).

1910. 55° N., 20° W., very indefinite (D.S. 555)

2026. 58.30 N., 19° W., very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 555).

1619. 43.30 N., 11.30 W., very indefinite (German), doubtful U/B (D.S. 555).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1311/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Two German whalers scuttled.

SCARBOROUGH reports at 1120 today having intercepted two Norwegian Whalers in 44° 50' N. 22° W. which had been taken in prize by a German Cruiser in the South Atlantic. Both Whalers scuttled themselves on SCARBOROUGH's approach; and their rescued Norwegian crews state that the ships had been fuelled at noon on the 6th March in about 27° N. 42° W. by a large German Tanker with whom a 7000-Ton Raider was in company.

On indications that the HIPPER-class Cruiser may be sailing shortly from Brest, C. in C. Plymouth suggest that a strong air-attack should be made upon her forthwith.

C. in C. H.F. intends to transfer his flag to KING GEORGE V on her return from Convoy Escort duty.

RESOLUTION is to be refitted in the U.S.A. and is to be ready to leave Portsmouth as soon as possible.

German warships near Heligoland.

At 0030 today aircraft sighted two 10,000 ton cruisers in line astern near Heligoland. Two 6000 ton cruisers and 5 auxiliary vessels were seen approaching the Island at 1035 today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

H.Q.C.C. considers that, with its present resources, the watch on the French West Coast ports proposed by C. in C. Plymouth is impracticable.

Flights to Brest were made at intervals today, where the HIPPER class cruiser was sighted in harbour.

Seven Blenheims carried out a sweep last night to the Dutch coast, to intercept E boats which might be leaving harbour.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Hamburg, Bremen and Boulogne last night.

A Blenheim of Coastal Command bombed and secured one hit with a small bomb on a 2,000 ton merchant ship 58 miles West of Trondheim about noon today.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoys W.N. Odd, ROMNEY, and SOUTHDOWN's Convoy were bombed during today without damage; the French Salvage Vessel INFATIGABLE was attacked while disabled off the Smalls; and the British EMPIRE FROST, which had been bombed yesterday, was sunk by another bomb at 1545 today while in tow for Milford Haven.

An F.W. Aircraft is believed to have been in 45° 30' N. 25° W. at 1000 this morning probably returning to Bordeaux.

/Tanker.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Tanker SOVAC which was reported bombed and set on fire on 26/2 in Convoy O.B. 290 is reported to have arrived in New York on time.

Air raid on Liverpool. 7 ships damaged or sunk.

Damage was caused to Naval establishments at Liverpool in air raid last night. S.S. MYRMIDON was sunk in dock, and WEARWOOD, GLEN ARTNEY, CATRINE, FLAX, DENBIGSHIRE and BUENOS AIRES were damaged. Floating crane MAMMOTH was sunk in dock on an even keel.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was carried out in Liverpool Bay, off Mull of Kintyre, in the Thames Estuary and at the mouth of the Humber.

Mining of Liverpool.

The British TACOMA CITY was mined and sunk at 1350 today in the Mersey; and at 2021 the British ULLAPOOL was mined and sunk while at anchor off the Princes Stage at Liverpool. Seven Mines have been plotted in the Mersey Channel, of which four have detonated, and it is considered dangerous to move ships into or out of Birkenhead or the South Liverpool Docks.

2 Mines were detonated to-day by Sweepers in the Tyne, 3 off Milford Haven to-day and a total of 7 yesterday.

/The.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (contd).

The NGATIRA was mined in the Bristol Channel and beached during this afternoon; and at 1425 S.S. SAMLANES was mined and sunk 2 miles South of the Lizard, no survivors being reported.

Oban and Falmouth were closed today.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration".

Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against the French BANGKOK, which left Dakar for Marseilles on or shortly before 10/3.

South Atlantic.

Meat Ships.

The Dept. of Defence, Union of South Africa, are prepared to place a camp at Durban at the disposal of the military to receive the personnel of the 4 meat ships in Convoy W.S.6. which are urgently required to load meat for the U.K.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Enemy M.V's sunk.	TRIUMPH reports having sunk 2 ships of 2,500 tons at anchor close inshore off Melito, near Cape Spartivento.
Suez Canal.	Adoption of a net defence scheme to indicate positions of mines in the Suez Canal was approved by the Admiralty to-day.
Malta Mines.	Besides the 2 magnetic mines detonated on 8/3, another is in the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour. The clearance of Grand Harbour, suspended while divers worked on the ESSEX, is now being started.
Malta Air Raid.	Only 1 enemy raider came over Malta last night, releasing bombs in the sea to the S.E.
British air Operations.	5 F.A.A. Swordfish last night attacked shipping at Valona with torpedoes and sank one ship. R.A.F. bombed Valona and Sazeno Island and aerodromes in the Dodecanese, and the harbour at Tripoli.
Coal Scarcity.	P.S.T.O., Port Said, states that low stocks of coal and precariousness of replenishment in Mediterranean owing to uncertainty of Canal transit make the use of oil burning ships essential.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

British and Allied ships over 4,000 tons may be allowed as far north as Shanghai but not to Japanese ports.

America & West Indies.

C. in C. suggest approaching U.S.A. under Lease and Lend Bill to remove restrictions on the fuelling of British and Allied warships in U.S. ports.

D/F at 0257/13 G.M.T. place an unknown enemy unit within 300 miles of 49.00 N, 30.00 W. KING GEORGE V has been ordered to proceed towards Halifax. No confirmation has been received of the intercept by Canso Radio at 0317/12 G.M.T. of 2 ships being attacked by a raider.

Australia.

An unidentified ship was sighted in 22° 45' S 153° 32' E. (N.E. of Rockhampton, Queensland) at 0730Z/8 steering south.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TROUBADOUR. — When ready for sea TROUBADOUR is to join Western Approaches Escort Force. She is to be at four days' notice to proceed on foreign service. (D.O.D.H. 1217/13).

AVONDALE. ERIDGE. — On completion of working up AVONDALE and ERIDGE will join the command of C.in C. W.A.
2. C.in C. W.A. is to be prepared to return two Wairs of the Rosyth Escort Force to C.in C. Rosyth on relief by AVONDALE and ERIDGE. (A.C.N.S. H. 1216/13).

Proposed use of Enemey Rescue Floats. — D. A/S. R.S. C.Cd. 1440/13.

Clyde/Iceland Ferry Service. — Your 1616/12. I concur but S.N. programme allows about 4 days between operation and 4 destroyers are required as A/S screen for minelayers. 2 Additional destroyers will therefore be required for the ferry service. (ii) This allows little margin for refit or repairs and TOWN class destroyers have not proved reliable in the past, although they appear to be otherwise very suitable for these duties. (C.in C. H.F. 1923/13 to Adty.).

Home Fleet Battleships. — Convoy escort arrangements. Number of battleships at Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 2003/13) See Operations Volume.

Loch Ewe A/A Guardships. — To assist in the A.A. Defence of shipping in Loch Ewe request you will arrange for four of the merchant ships present at any one time to act as A.A. Guardships at immediate notice. (C.in C. W.A. 2009/12 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Convoy Escorts. A/A armament. — I believe the effectiveness of machine gun A/A fire from escorts would be increased considerably if these ships were supplied with incendiary ammunition. Asking for supply urgently. (C.in C. W.A. 2102/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Dropping of Flares during Invasion.

Your 1730/26/2. Concur in proposed amendment of rule and suggest that Home Forces be asked to convene a meeting to discuss details of most satisfactory method of employing flares to meet all requirements in circumstances set out. (V.C.N.S. 1318/13 to Air Ministry F.O. 6).

Scapa A/A Guns.

Reference Prime Minister's directif on Battle of Britain dated 6/3. Para 7. C.in C. F.C. withdrawing 8 H.A.A. guns from Scapa to assist in augmenting defences at West Coast ports. (Air Ministry 1740/13 to Adty.).

Portsmouth and Southampton A/A Defences.

Following signal (C.in C. Portsmouth 1843/12) received from C.in C. Portsmouth.
2. T.L. fully appreciate the very heavy demands which are at present being made on existing resources of A/A guns but hope that the most favourable consideration possible in the circumstances may be given to the submission of Brigadier, 35th A.A. Brigade. (A.C.N.S. H. 1754/13 to Air Ministry).

Evacuation Scheme. Coal Dumps at Glasgow.

Your 2303/8. This is in hand. First cargo for Glasgow dumps is being loaded this week. (D.T.D. 1846/13 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Invasion. Estimate of Forces in Commands. Proposed reduction of anti-invasion Orders.

Your 2017/12. In event of invasion it is probable that all serviceable destroyers M/S Corvettes and Sloops in Western Approaches will be required to operate in the commands, but it is clear from A.L.M./P.D. 09533/41 of 1st March that it will be for Admiralty to allocate these Forces where needed. I am unable therefore to estimate what forces will be available for any particular area.
(2) I feel strongly that a reduction should be made in the present volume of anti-invasion orders issued to ships in Western Approaches. Suggest that a standard set of anti-invasion orders, comprising all instructions which are common to all commands, should be compiled in one document, brief detailed orders particular to each individual command being included in short supplements. (C.in C. W.A. 2054/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RIPLEY.
BURWELL.

Departure RIPLEY and BURWELL to comply with N.O.i/c Liverpool 1451/10.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 0358/13 to LEGION).
Sailed RIPLEY in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1314/10. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1520/12.).

OTUS.

Sailed routed in accordance with S.5.0915/7.
OTUS enters North Atlantic Station at 0600/17.
E.T.A. Cape Spartel 0700/19 B.S.T.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1124/13).
Amend times and dates in your sailing orders as follows. (S. 5. 1855/13 to OTUS).

Information to Escorting S/M's.

C.in C. W.A. is requested to keep submarines escorting H G and O G convoys informed of movements of own and enemy forces while they are on the Home Station. (F.O.S. 1146/13).

REVENGE

My 1302/11. Concur with C.in C. Plymouth 1536/12.
2. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for the remaining two destroyers to proceed to Clyde and then to form part of the escort for the movement referred to in A.M. 1905/6 not to C.in C. Plymouth before returning to Plymouth. (A.C.N.S. H. 1208/13).
Intend to sail REVENGE escorted by KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KPLING, CLEVELAND, FERNIE at 0700/14. E.T.A. Greenock 0855/16.
3 of 5th D.F. will be detached to Plymouth at dark 15th. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1743/13).
My 1536/12 paragraph two. Request that KELLY, JACKAL and KELVIN may be detached in time to arrive off Eddystone 0900/16.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1956/13 to C.in C. Portsmouth.)
KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, sailed 1920.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2044/13.).

EXETER.

Your 1005/9.
Dockyard date for EXETER completion was given as 13/3. Request her sailing be expedited. It was anticipated that she would be ready to sail by 18/3 at latest.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1324/13 to C.in C. Plymouth).

RESOLUTION.

Will refit in U.S.A. and is to be ready to leave Portsmouth as soon as possible, the minimum time being spent in dock. (Controller 2052/13).

/ CAIRO ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RIPLEY.
BURWELL.

Departure RIPLEY and BURWELL to comply with N.O.i/c Liverpool 1451/10.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 0358/13 to LEGION).
Sailed RIPLEY in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1314/10. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1520/12.).

OTUS.

Sailed routed in accordance with S.5.0915/7.
OTUS enters North Atlantic Station at 0600/17.
E.T.A. Cape Spartel 0700/19 B.S.T.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1124/13).
Amend times and dates in your sailing orders as follows. (S. 5. 1855/13 to OTUS).

Information to Escorting S/M's.

C.in C. W.A. is requested to keep submarines escorting H G and O G convoys informed of movements of own and enemy forces while they are on the Home Station. (F.O.S. 1146/13).

REVENGE

My 1302/11. Concur with C.in C. Plymouth 1536/12.
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3 of 5th D.F. will be detached to Plymouth at dark 15th. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1743/13).
My 1536/12 paragraph two. Request that KELLY, JACKAL and KELVIN may be detached in time to arrive off Eddystone 0900/16.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1956/13 to C.in C. Portsmouth.)
KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, sailed 1920.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2044/13.).

EXETER.

Your 1005/9.
Dockyard date for EXETER completion was given as 13/3. Request her sailing be expedited. It was anticipated that she would be ready to sail by 18/3 at latest.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1324/13 to C.in C. Plymouth).

RESOLUTION.

Will refit in U.S.A. and is to be ready to leave Portsmouth as soon as possible, the minimum time being spent in dock. (Controller 2052/13).

/ CAIRO ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

CAIRO

Is to proceed to Holyhead to act as A/S Guardship when all work in connection with trials at Belast is completed. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail CAIRO from Holyhead as necessary to refuel and act in accordance with Admiralty's 1746/9. On completion of A/A escort duties, CAIRO is to return in company with local A/S escort, and proceed to Clyde, probably arriving about 29/3. (C.in C. W.A. 2059/13).

3rd M/L Flotilla for Gibraltar.

On completion of preparation and training referred to in A.L. M.023534/40 of 27/12/40 3rd M.L. Flotilla is to be sailed under own power to Gibraltar, routed South of Ireland.
2. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for destroyer escort from 5th D.F. to accompany the Flotilla for the first 48 hours. C.in C. W.A. is requested to provide one corvette to escort the Flotilla to Gibraltar.
3. Intend that advantage should be taken of suitable weather conditions, particularly low visibility in the English Channel and Bay of Biscay.
4. Request you will arrange and report route selected, together with any special orders considered necessary for the operation.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2208/13).

Operations.

East Coast A/P Patrols.

Request special A/P Patrol quoted in my 1022/10 be operated again tonight.
(C.in C. Nore 0940/13 to F.O. Humber.).
Request special A/P patrols quoted in my 1026/10 be operated.
(C.in C. Nore 0944/13 to F.O. Yarmouth).

SCARBOROUGH. Re-capture of two Norwegian Whalers.

Have intercepted 2 Norwegian Whalers taken in prize by German Cruiser in South Atlantic. One Whaler scuttled herself and Crew are on board me. Suspect she has made enemy report. Am chasing second Whaler. Suspect 7 more chasing in vicinity. My position is 044° 50'N. (?22°) 00' W. (SCARBOROUGH, 1120/13).
My 1120/13. Second Whaler scuttled herself on my approach. Have one German Lieut.Commander seven German ratingsand twenty-two Norwegians on board. Am rejoining Convoy.
(SCARBOROUGH 1340/13).

/ Northern Patrol. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.3.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Northern Patrol. Cancel my 1145/5/2. Direction of patrol is to North Eastward during daylight. (F.O.C.N.P. 1129/13).

Operation QD Weather permitting Operation Q D will be carried out today. (C.in C. Nore 1417/13).

HONNINGSVAAG HONNINGSVAAG reports all cargo landed. Both ships standing by and assisting in operations. (F.O. Iceland 1657/13). HONNINGSVAAG reports operation ashore proceeding satisfactorily but ships now icebound and cut off from land. Captain Ullring and seven men living ashore. (F.O. Iceland 2305/13).

Interception of Enemy Coastal Shipping. (A) It has been reported that lights in inner lead in vicinity of Haugesund are extinguished and those on the sea board are lit. (B) Proceed forthwith to zone C 3 and patrol off Kors Fiord and Selbjorn Fiord with the object of intercepting shipping passing up coast and re-entering the inner lead or vice versa. I do not wish you to proceed south of entrance Selbjorn Fiord. (F.O.S. 1933/13 to UNDAUNTED.).

AAGOT. Finnish, 3939 tons). Intercepted by NORTHERN CHIEF in 62° 43' N. 16° 25' W. Ship had not passed through Skopen Fiord. NORTHERN CHIEF ordered to escort to Kirkwall. (S.O.N.T. 2327/13).

British Air Activity.

Enemy Destroyer torpedoed. A/C reports having sighted 5 Destroyers and 1 larger unidentified Vessel in position 70' W. of Lym Fiord, steering 180°, 15 knots at 2212/12. Attacked one Destroyer with torpedo and hit was obtained amidships, followed by terrific explosion. (Pitreavie 0215/13).

Patrols. Patrols ordered for today. UNST. STAB. TROST. BERT is cloud permits. S A 2 and S A 3 training patrols. (C.in C. Rosyth 0813/13).

/ My 0813/13. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols. (Contd.)	My 0813/13. Bert and Stand taking off about 2000 3 torpedo A/C carrying out roving patrol in Hornli area. (C.in C. Rosyth 1930/13). A/S Patrol by A/C of following Area is now being flown and will continue until daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 2148/13). A/C 0830. Anson patrolling vicinity 58° 28' N. 05° 28' W. to be relieved by Sunderland from Sullom Voe about 1400. (C.in C. Rosyth 1210/13).
Escorts.	Expect 1 Blenheim as close escort during daylight today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1016/13 to WINCHELSEA, etc.). Expect one aircraft as escort from 1440 till dusk. (C.in C. Plymouth 1411/3 to BANGOR).
Albino units.	See Air Min. 1125/13, H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1133/13.
French Coast Ports.	AP/862 13/3. C.in C. Plymouth 1918/10. Following is appreciation of aircraft role and estimate of aircraft required for proposed watch on French west coast ports. One sortie a day would require 15 long range aircraft or 30 long range aircraft for dusk and dawn sorties to maintain effort. Dawn patrol of little purpose unless naval forces in Atlantic or Western Approaches within cruising range for interception of warships breaking out of Bay of Biscay. Regret therefore reconnaissance suggested impracticable with present resources of my command and agreed dispositions. (H.Q.C.C. 1250/13 to Adty.).
HIPPER Cruiser.	HIPPER presence definitely established at Brest. Several indications show that she may be sailing shortly. Utmost importance that attack should be made now. Enemy fighters in North West France have been reinforced by 80 in last two or three days. It is essential that Skuas of 801 Squadron should be heavily supported by fighters throughout the attack. A.O.C. considers nothing less than two Beau fighter squadrons would be adequate to support Skuas in facing enemy opposition. Request urgent steps be taken to supply in order that this important attack may be carried out today Thursday. Failing this request heavy bombing attack be carried out tonight. Skuas will also be sent for moonlight attack. (C.in C. Plymouth 1350/13 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth bombed.	At 2056 30 explosive incendiaries fell in Dockyard Storage Area Frater causing small fire in one Railway Truck which is out. 3 Employees injured. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0051/13).
ESSEX LANCE (Bombed 12/3)	Received at 0130 from KROOMAN:- Still proceeding to position. (N. Foreland Radio 0213/13). Have located Steamer. (KROOMAN 0750/13). S.S. ESSEX LANCE abandoned in tow of tugs. Close immediately and escort to Humber. Crew are in trawler COVENTRY CITY also in company. (C.in C. Nore 0941/12 to FRANKLIN). Have ESSEX LANCE in tow making for Yarmouth pump and towage assistance required. (KROOMAN 0950/13). Tug SABINE sailed at 1050 assist tow of ESSEX LANCE. (F.O. Humber 1055/13). Doctor put aboard COVENTRY CITY. Now towing ESSEX LANCE. (NORMAN 1115/13). My 0941. KROOMAN reports at 0950 she is towing ESSEX LANCE to Yarmouth. If committed to this course, tow is to proceed to Yarmouth and FRANKLIN is to escort to within sight of port and then proceed to Humber. Report situation. (C.in C. Nore 1137/13 to FRANKLIN). Steamer reported sinking. Am towing towards Beach Cromer. (KROOMAN 1319/13). Steamer beached 2 miles N.W. Cromer. KROOMAN and DIVERSION returning to harbour. (KROOMAN 1610/13) (NORMAN 1520/13). S.S. ESSEX LANCE was beached North of Cromer as breaking of back appeared imminent. Engine room and stokehold being flooded no pumps available. Damage was caused by under-water detonation of A/C bombs aft, ship also was subjected to machine gun fire one casualty Chief Engineer injured by fall. Remainder of crew including service guns crew landed Yarmouth. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 2057/13).
INFATIGABLE (French Salvage Vessel).	Disabled 2 miles off Smalls require help immediately. (INFATIGABLE 1037/13). Attacked by A/C 2 miles off Smalls. (Burnham 1455/13).

/ FORTHBANK
(Bombed 1/3). ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

FORTHBANK (Bombed 1/3)

Intend to sail S.S. FORTHBANK at 1800/13 for Leith in tow of Tugs CHAMPION and HENDON escorted by A/P Trawlers ARNOLD BENNETT and LE NIVOSE as far as Troup Head. Estimated speed 7 1/2 knots. Request further escort may be arranged to take over at position Troup Head 000 four miles at 0200/14, and that air escort be provided.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1100/13).
F.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1100/13. One ship of 5th M.S.F. as detailed by M.S.5. is to sail as requisite P.M. to-day and R.V. with FORTHBANK and tugs 000° Troop Head 4 miles at 0200/14th subsequently escorting them to No.1. Reflector Buoy (Firth of Forth) and then return to Aberdeen. (C.in C. Rosyth 1440/13).
Your 1440/13. ROSS has been detailed for this operation. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1702/13 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Portsmouth Air-Raid Night 10/11.

Re casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1103/13).

One enemy aircraft. My position 51° 43' N. 4° 20' W. (ROMNEY 1105/13).
Enemy aircraft bombing.
(ROMNEY 1108/13).

EMPIRE FROST (Bombed 12/3)

Tug GOLIATH sailed to assist EMPIRE FROST.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1151/13).
2 Enemy Planes attacked EMPIRE FROST in tow of SEINE and EMPIRE FROST sunk 1545.
No damage reported to SEINE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1742/13).

F.W. Aircraft.

There are indications that a F.W. Aircraft was in position 45° 30' N. 25° 00' W. at 1000 probably returning to Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 1244/13).

Convoy E.N. Odd.

Fighters have been despatched to MIGHT and Lancet (Aircraft). (C.in C. Rosyth 1503/13).

/Unknown Ship. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Unknown Ship.	Received 1406 G.M.T. from unknown ship. Plane attack 15 S.W. Smalls. (Burnham Radio 1507/13). Received 1407 G.M.T. 500 kcs DE MWVO. AAAA plane flying low returning for fourth time ends. (Burnham Radio 1508/13).
Liverpool. MYRMIDON sunk in Dock. WEARWOOD GLENARTNEY CATRINE ELAX DENBIGHSHIRE BUENOS AIRES MOUNT STEWART damaged.	Following damage caused to Admiralty establishment by air raid on night of March 12/13. (S.C.E. Liverpool 1831/13). MYRMIDON (6278 tons) submerged in Dock. WEARWOOD (4597 tons), GLENARTNEY (8986 tons), CATRINE (5218 tons), ELAX (Tanker, 7403 tons), DENBIGHSHIRE (8983 tons), and BUENOS AIRES (Swedish, 5646 tons) damaged. (D.C.L. 15/3) MOUNT STEWART (1099 tons) damaged (D.S. 560).
MELFORD QUEEN. Enemy A/C damaged.	F.O.i/c Yarmouth reports MELFORD QUEEN claims destruction of Do. 17 12/3 Details. At least it seems most improbable that aircraft could have reached its base. (C.in C. Nore 1831/13).
Convoy	2 Delayed action bombs dropped on Convoy. Apparently no damage. (SOUTHDOWN 2015/12).
PERSEUS	(Dutch 1307 tons) torpedoed and sunk by aircraft at 2200/13 off Bardsey Island. Crew landed at Holyhead (D.S. 560).

Mining.

Liverpool.	Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0030/13). Situation 18/13/3. Port is closed but when essential ships may be permitted to enter or leave so far as room allows and provided no vessels pass to south of line Pierhead to Woodside stage. Seven mines plotted in channel between this line and line New Ferry to Herculaneum. Two of these in vicinity Rock Ferry since detonated. Two more detonated by LL close in shore S.W. of Egremont Pier. Consider inadvisable at present to move ships into or out of Birkenhead or South Liverpool Docks. No damage H.M. Ships. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1856/13).

/ Oban. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Oban.	Port closed due to suspected enemy minelaying by enemy aircraft. (N.O.I.C. Oban 0103/13). Request EASTCOATES now at Rothesay may be sailed for Oban to assist Sweeping operations. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1119/13). Your 1119/13. Approved. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1415/13).
B.S.51.	Departure LA MELPOMENE. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1015/13).
Eastern Channel Clearance Sweep	Intended 1st M.S. Flotilla should be based on and return to Newhaven each night during clearance of area given in Adty's 2003/11. S.O. 1st M.S. F. is to arrange his movements accordingly. (V.A. Dover 1104/13).
Tyne.	1 ground magnetic mine detonated red L L at 1048/13 in 045 degs. Tyne North Pier Light 13 cables. (P.M/S. O. N. Shields 1122/13). 1 Ground Magnetic Mine detonated Red L.L. at 1620/13 in 022° Roker Pier Light 5 Cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 2029/13).
Selsey. Explosion.	Loud explosion heard about 4-5 miles S.E. From Selsey lookout presumed to be a mine. No vessels near but motor vessel believed PORT LYAUTY was about 3 miles south of Selsey lookout steering eastwards and turned about steering west after explosion. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1245/13).
Milford Haven.	My 1755/12. 3 further Mines detonated 12/3. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1255/13). Following 3 Mines detonated by Sweepers today. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1731/13).
Exmouth.	Cancel my 0312/15/2. (C.in C. Plymouth 1311/13)
NGATIRA	(British, 525 tons) Mined in 21.2' N. 3° 17.2'W. and beached. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1345/13).
Thames Estuary.	Night of 12/13th March. At 2157 four dark objects were seen momentarily in the air over the South Edinburgh channel following the passage of a low flying aircraft. (S.O. TL.D.F. 1400/13).

/ Falmouth. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Falmouth.	Port of Falmouth closed due to mines. A dangerous area exists the centre of which is Lizard 180° 2 miles radius 3 miles. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1435/13).
Dangerous Area.	There is probability enemy mines in area bounded by Meridians 001° 10' E. and 002° 10'E. and parallels 059° 50' N. and 060° 18' N. Steer to leave this area 25 miles to Eastwards of you. (F.O.S. 1621/13 to STURGEON).
TACOMA CITY sunk.	(British 4738 tons) Ex H.X.110. Sunk at 1350/13 by mine in River Mersey, 104° Rock Ferry Light, 2 and a half cables. Vessel broken in half. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1651/13).
Use of R. mines against E boats.	Information given up to present has been too scanty to justify taking corvettes from escort duties or auxiliary patrol vessels from watching buoys and channel in order to lay these mines. Reasons. (C.in C. Nore 1706/13).
Unknown Ship sunk.	Ship unknown mined and sunk 1425/13 in 180° Lizard 2 miles. Lizard lifeboat launched 1455 returned 1732. Reports no survivors, two damaged lifeboats amongst wreckage. Considerable amount of wreckage floating. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1818/13).
CACHALOT.	Will sail for patrol in Bay of Biscay about 19/3 Suggest she lay mines near 043° 37' N. 001° 33' W. (F.O.S. 1908/13).
ULLAPOOL.	(British, 4891 tons) Sunk at anchor at 2021 by mine in River Mersey off Princes Stage. Ship broken in half. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2121/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Off the Elbe.

Following received from A/C B/235 Squadron. 2 Cruisers 5 Auxiliary vessels Bearing 060° Distant 5 miles approx. true course 160 my position 54° 12' N. 7° 55' E. (Supt. N. Coates 0910/13).
Aircraft report at 0910/13 2 Cruisers 5 Auxiliaries. 5' 060 degs from 54° 12' N. 7° 55' E. CO 168°, no speed given. No cloud cover. (D.D.I.C. 1129/13).
Reference N.R.1. 1 cruiser 6000 tons 5 Auxiliaries 4000 tons were approaching Heligoland at 15 knots. (A/C B. 235 Sqdn. 1035/13).

TAIPING.
TARONGA.

My 1504/12. It is now reported that either TAIPING or TARONGA will probably leave about 20/3. The other was bunkering on 11/3 and my leave at any moment. (F.O.S.1024/13 to S/M's Area A.).
Indication that ex Wilhelmien ships TAIPING and TARONGA fitted as raiders maximum speed 21 knots equipment includes torpedo tubes may have left Oslo proceeding northward. (F.O.C.N.P. 1123/13) (V.A.N.P. 1645/13).

HAVDA.

Norwegian crew, leaves Trondjhem for North Norway 14 with cargo of munitions. C.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1211/13).

Brest.
HIPPER cruiser.

Photographic R/C of Brest A.M. today shows tug at bow of HIPPER Class Cruiser and protective nets slightly open. Inference is that ship is either leaving quay or berthing. Further R/C investigating. (D.D.I.C. 1224/13).
Indication that HIPPER Cruiser may leave Brest today Thursday. (C.in C. Plymouth 1256/13 to L.27).

Enemy Main Units.

Latest known disposition. (D.D.I.C.1229/13).

Enemy Tanker.
Raider.

My 1120/13. Norwegian crews of whalers from factory ship PELAGES state that whalers were fuelled at noon on 6/3 by large German tanker in approx. 27° N. 42° W.
Small raider 7000 tons, black hull, upper work funnel and masts grey, raked bow, cruiser stern, was in company tanker. (SCARBOROUGH 1715/13) (D.D.I.C. 2104/13).
Duty H. 2 destroyers bearing 080° distance five miles approx. course 316°. My position 48° 20' N. 5° 14' W. at 1900 - 1930. (A/C Bomber Cd. 1932 /13 to 19 Group H.Q.) (C.in C. Plymouth 2250/13 to D.5) (F.O.S. 2251/13 to OTUS).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BALTARA (Broke down 5/3).	My 1822/12. Third engineer and 11 men from S.S. BALTARA arrived Belfast 2100/12/3. Ship sprung a leak 2200/4/3. Above left ship 1100/7. Position then was engine room and stokehold flooded bulkhead unsafe. Remainder of crew of 28 including Master were still on board. Trawler was standing by approx. position 057° 26' N. 022° 27' W. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1020/13).
MAHRONDA.	(British, 7926 tons). Due Capetown 8/3 from U.K. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1517/12).
L.26.	L.26 delayed by defects until about 17/3. Anticipate 0.24 will be ready to sail on 19/3. Propose to retain WHITE BEAR at Dundee sailing her as escort to both submarines on 19/3. (S.9. 1717/13 to S.3.).
GLENDENE	For Barry Road has defective D.G. and has been ordered to Belfast to make good defect before proceeding. (WANDERER 2350/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ANNEBERG — Your 1232/6 (Re report that ANNEBERG boarded by British A.M.C.) ANNEBERG Master's statement correct. (MALVERNIAN, 0105/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Rescued A/C at Teneriffe. — N.A. Madrid 1909/12 (Naval A/C crew rescued by Spanish s.s. CABOIRANNA ESPERANZA) Ref. C.A.F.O. 386/1936. Request guidance whether it is politically desirable to create precedent by attempt to gain possession of damaged A/C. Intend to evacuate crew as soon as possible. (F.O.C.N.A. 0938/13, to Admty.)

Flying boat attacked by enemy a/c. — London Flying boat attacked off Cape De Gata 1730/12 by Italian aircraft identified by crew as Caproni, 135. 2 Aircraft subsequently sighted off Malaga 1800, steering S. (F.O.C.N.A. 0952/13, to Admty.).

Enemy Unit. — Admty. 0855/13 (see America and W. Indies) is being repeated to you. (H.W.R. 1149/13 to RODNEY, KING GEORGE V, C.S.1., HEATHER, EGRET, SCARBOROUGH, ARETHUSA, SHEFFIELD, ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Interception of Norwegian Whalers. — SCARBOROUGH reports having intercepted in 044° 50' N. 022° 00' W. 2 Norwegian whalers which had been taken in prize by German cruiser in Atlantic. It is suspected 7 more may be near this position. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/13, to N.A. Stn.). See also HOME COMMANDS, Operations.

Operation "Ration", BANGKOK. — Your 2107/12. Operation "RATION" is to be carried out against S.S. BANGKOK. If other French M.V's are in same convoy as BANGKOK they are to be allowed to proceed. Most important to bring in BANGKOK. (1 S.L. 2255/13, to F.O.C.N.A.).

ASAKA — A.T. 1913/19/2. Japanese ship ASAKA leaves Bilbao noon/13 (Route). (D.O.D.(F) 2354/13 to N.A. Stn.) See also China Station.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.3.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Norwegian whalers. — Interception by SCARBOROUGH of Norwegian whalers captured by Germans in South Atlantic. (See HOME COMMANDS, Operations).

ISIS
ENCOUNTER — Simonstown arrived 13/3. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0633Z/13).

W.S.6. — D. of S.T's. 0140/13. Release of meat ships. Proposals. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1245B/13, to C.in C. S.A.).

MADRID
(German) — Unassessed secret source reports MADRID which left Las Palmas recently is bringing German merchandise to Uruguay. She was escorted part of the way by German warship(s). Ends. Please inform me if ship has recently put to sea. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 1839/13 to Adty.).

Mediterranean.

German
SPEZIA — Arrived 11/3. (Valencia, T.H.I. 0040/13).

Sailings, Mersin to Port Said. — (Saving). My T Y/3/2 21/2 (No trace in W.R.) Following results from meeting with Turkish General Staff yesterday.
Trade Commissioner's approval given for three repeat three (?armed) liners to ply between Mersin Iskanderun and Port Said ships sailing under directions of British authorities at ports mentioned.
(B) Each ship will be capable of loading 3000 - 4000 tons of cargo and fitted with modern derricks and winches.
(C) First ship will sail in about a week remaining two as advised by British authorities. (N.A. Ankara 1024/13).

2 M.V's sunk by TRIUMPH. — TRIUMPH reports traffic, all less than 4000 tons kept one to 2 miles off shore, northbound making Stile Point or Cape Rizzuto and southbound Spartevento Cape at daylight. Convoy escorts usual A.M.C.'s, Occasional Patrols of Schooners who reported attack to M.A.S. Hunt still progressing. Sank two ships of 2500 tons at anchor close in shore off Melito 037° 55', 015° 47'.
(Capt. S.1, 1041/13, to PARTHIAN)
Melito, Southern Calabria. (D.S. 556).

/ Rhodes bombed. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Rhodes bombed.	Operational Summary No.276 up to 1200 hours 13/3/41. Night 11/12 March. 5 Wellingtons dropped approximately 10725 lbs. bombs on Rhodes Harbour, Maritza and Calato Aerodromes starting large fire each Aerodrome. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1127/13).
Enemy Mines, Malta.	2 Red magnetic mines were detonated 8/3 in entrance to Marsamscett Harbour close to Boom 1 more in entrance to Marsamscett, position of which was not very accurately fixed. Clearance of Grand Harbour has been suspended while divers worked on ESSEX but is being started. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1516/13).
Salonika.	Request re shipping at. (Hd. of M., to C.in C. Med., 1538/13) (See Mediterranean Volume.).
Malta Air Raids.	Night 12/13th. 1 raider came over Island and bombs released S.E. of Island in sea. Day 13th no enemy activity. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1620/13).
Troopships and Coal supplies.	Your 1817/11. CITY OF LONDON and CITY OF CANTERBURY have not been recalled for reasons given in my 1931/9 and 1211/10. Very low stocks of coal and precariousness of replenishment in Mediterranean owing to uncertainty of canal transit makes use of oil burning ships essential. My 2251/27/2 refers. FENNLAND and CAMERONIA are standing by to transit to Port Said immediately canal opens. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1621/13, to D. of S.T.).
Nets for Suez Canal.	Experiments are being carried out before full scheme is proceeded with. (C.in C. Med. 1927/13).
Suez Canal Mines.	Your 0931/5. Adoption of scheme approved, provided experiments are successful. (D.M.S. 2011/13 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Canal Situation. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.3.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Canal Situation.	Situation 2000/13. Mines suspected and depth charges at dark in deep hole in soft mud at k.m. 28. Inspection will be made at daylight by diver. No result at k.m. 139 to 141. Day on which it is hoped to open canal must be postponed until 16/3. Diving and trawling results disappointing partly due to very soft mud at km. 28 and strong currents rocks and boulders at k.m.139 to 141. (S.B.N.O Suez Canal 2015/13).
Enemy Ship.	One 3500-ton ship anchored 030° Burat 1½ miles since 8/3. SCHOONER arrived 9/3. Proceeding accordance with previous orders. (TRUANT, 2141/13, to Capt. S.I.).
Enemy Ships.	Aircraft reconnaissance reports 3 small ships 2 miles off Cape Misurata steering S.E. at 1645/13. (Capt. S.I, 2159/13, to TRUANT).
Movements, Convoys, etc.	(C.in C. Med., 2159/13, to Med. Fleet).

East Indies.

W.S.6.	Proposals in para. 4 and 5 of my 1300/10 must now be modified. Request alternative proposals and remarks. (D.S.T., 0140/13, to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A., etc.).
Mogadishu etc.	My 0736/10/3, para (1) Breech blocks of Coast Defence guns now found defective and unlikely guns ready for use before mid April. (C.in C. E.I., 0538/13, to Admty.).
W.S.6.	N.O.1/c. Port Sudan's 1520/11 and D. of S.T's 0140/13. Orders for CITY OF CANTERBURY, CITY OF LONDON, ANSELM, ELIZABETH, and COSTA RICA. TALAMBA is to be earmarked for troop movements from Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., 0644/13, to S.N.O. Red Sea, etc.)

/ MOGAMIGAWA MARU. ....

MOST SECRET.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

MOGAMIGAWA MARU. Cancel my 0632/12 Ship's arrival reported in error. Ship now due 16/3. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon 0804Z/13).

Raider Intelligence. CANBERRA 1805/7. Further information re ADMIRAL SCHEER, TANNENFELS, BRITISH ADVOCATE, etc. (C.in C. E.I., 1132Z/13, to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., etc.) See Operations Volume.

China.

Shipping Shanghai. My 1457/11/2 and 0323/12/2. British Allied ships over 4000 tons may now be allowed as far North as Shanghai but not to Japanese Ports. (C.in C. China, 0329/13, to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong S.O.I., Shanghai.).

ASAKA. My 1636/24. Ministry of Marine informs me ASAKA leaves 1200/13 and will return to Japan via the Cape. Speed 15 knots throughout. (N.A. Tokyo, 0953/13, to Admty.) (See also North Atlantic.).

Japanese Fleet. My 0527/2. Exercises appear to have ceased and major combined Fleet units are in Japanese waters. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1103/13.)

Anglo-Dutch conference. From Chiefs of Staff. Views on telegraphic report of Anglo-Dutch-Australian conference. (1 S.L., to C.in C. China, C.in C. E.I., 1206/13) See Operations Volume.

Shanghai tankers. Your 0901/7. Panamanian Tanker THALIA has also been allocated to load for Shanghai. Request your views on a third ship. This in addition to the coastal ferry service from Hong Kong should make Shanghai position reasonably safe. (D.T.D., 1837/13 to C.in C. China.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Raider Report, 12/3.

Following message received from Canso Radio, Nova Scotia (begins) Intercepted at 0317 G.M.T./12. Unknown two ships attacked by warship raider. Very weak signals and atmospherics. (D.S.O. 0004/13 to LACONIA WORCESTERSHIRE, MALOJA, THUNDERBOLT, PORPOISE, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, RODNEY, KING GEORGE V.). A.M.0004/13.
Detach KING GEORGE V to proceed with despatch towards Halifax or estimated position of warship raider should any further information be received. (D.O.D.(H) 0147/13 to RODNEY).
My 0147/13. It is at your discretion to reduce speed to all convenient despatch, depending on information received and fuel considerations. (D.O.D.(H) 1822/13 to KING GEORGE V).
By D/F at 0257/13 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit was within 300 miles of 49° 00' N. 30° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0855/13 to C.in C. A.W.I., C.in C. S.A., etc.).
Your 1011/12 (Intercept from Canso Radio. Two ships attacked by Warship Raider). Request exact details of message as received by Canso Radio.(D.D.I.C. 1117/13, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Your 1117/13. My 1011/12 contains all details available. No other station in Canada intercepted this signal. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1447/13).

NYANZA.

Your 1854/12 (Requesting reason for inclusion of NYANZA in slow convoy). NYANZA arrived 31/1, speed 9 knots and was included in S.C. 21 rather than hold ship until 3/2 for H.X.107. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0929/13, to Admty.).

Fuelling in U.S. ports.

Suggest that under Lease and Lend Bill U.S. Authorities be approached with view to modifying regulations affecting fuelling of British and Allied warships in U.S. ports. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022/13, to Admty.).

DIOMEDE
PRINCE HENRY.

My 2241/10. After completing with fuel from BISHOPDALE on 14/3 DIOMEDE and PRINCE HENRY continue patrol off Gulf of Nicoya under orders of DIOMEDE.
DIOMEDE and BISHOPDALE are to be near Gulf of Panama at daylight/18 and await further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1102/13, to DIOMEDE, PRINCE HENRY).

/ ROYAL SOVEREIGN. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. — My 1643/7. Presume you will give necessary instructions to ROYAL SOVEREIGN when to leave H.X.113 and direct subsequent movements. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1242/13, to Admty.).

Dock, W. Atlantic. — My 1018/20/11/40. Grateful for Admiralty views as to necessity of dock of dimensions given in your 0343/28/11/1940. Complete with adequate shops for maintenance of H.M. Ships operating in W. Atlantic. Apart from difficult entrance channel St. John dock has only 14 feet above datum over sill and lowest highwater may only be 21 feet. (C.N.S., Canada, 1446/13, to Admty.).

Shipping in 20° W. — Considered probable that enemy regards the Meridian of 20° W. between latitudes of 5° N. and 60° N. as a fruitful patrol line in which much British shipping is likely to be encountered.
Shipping should therefore be routed so as to spend the minimum time on or adjacent to this line. (D.O.D.(H) 1541/13 to C.in C. A.W.I., S.A., etc. for N.C.S.O's.).

KING GEORGE V. — Request early information whether present intention is for KING GEORGE V to return to U.K. or Halifax after escorting H.X.115. If U.K. have several important items for safe transit which would be embarked. (R.A.3, 1746/13, to Admty.).

VOLTAIRE. — Movements. (R.A.3. 1801/13.).

ABGARA. — Latvian ship, sailed 12/3 Rio de Janeiro for Canada. Master reported pro-Nazi and obstructive. Stated to be receiving cabled orders from Danzig. Request investigation, action and report.
(D.N.I. 2009/13, to D.N.I. Ottawa).

Tampico, Enemy M.V's. — B.3 report states German and Italian ships have received orders to blow themselves up in harbour if they cannot get to sea should any attempt be made to take them over.
(D.S. 556).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Suspicious Ship.

Unidentified ship sighted in 022° 45' S. 153° 32' E. at 07302/8 steering south. Description. (A.C.N.B., 0616/13, to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MENTOR, (torpedoed 7/3).

Greek ship MENTOR (3050 tons) in ballast from Clyde to Takoradi hit by one torpedo fired by U-Boat in good weather and sank immediately at 1030/7 in approx. 059° 30' N. 025° 00' W. Torpedo not seen, but U-Boat observed on surface after ship had sunk was painted dark green. 22 survivors including all officers picked up by Faeroes trawler in approx. 060° 40' N. 012° 40' W. and landed at Thorshavn: remaining 7 hands lost. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1540/13, to A.C.O.S.). Had been in Convoy O.B.292 (D.S. 556).

TERJE VIKEN (torpedoed 7/3).

Master of Icelandic ship RICHARD arrived Vestmann Aeyjor 1400/13 reports large ship sighted at 1530/11 in 059° 21' 40" N. 012° 15' 30" W. floating upside down. Empty lifeboat found bearing name TERJE VIKEN. Size of ship appears to be 8 - 10 thousand tons. 2 propellers red hull. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1807/13.).

S/M's Reported.

0830.

Am over enemy submarine in position 58.28 N., 5.28 W., submarine has now dived. (A/C Duty E., B. Comd., 0830/13, to Stornoway) Note - See also S/M's Attacked. Submarine previous reported, periscope only sighted, course 286° estimated speed 5 knots at 0830. (A/C Duty E., 0900/13, to Stornoway).

0930.

Am over enemy submarine in 61.07 N., 12.17 W. (A/C Coastal Comd., 0930/13, to No. 18 Group). Enemy submarine previously reported was on surface steering 140° speed 5 knots. (A/C, Coastal Comd., 0940/13, to 18 Group). Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen in 61.07 N., 12.17 W., (A/C Coastal Comd., 0943/13, to 18 Group). Aircraft report S/M in 061° 07' N. 012° 17' W. at 0930/13. (C.in C. W.A. 1007/13, to Area A.). Position of Submarine is dead reckoning position. (A/C, Coastal Comd., 1020/13, to 18 H.Q.). Revised position of Sub. 60.58 N., 12.39 W., based on landfall. (A/C Coastal Comd., 1135/13, to 18 Group).

/ 2200/22/2. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

2200/22/2. At 2200/22/2 S/M going south seen from island of Porto Santo (Madeira).
(N.A. Lisbon, 1826/13, to Admty.).

0119. 60° N., 20° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 555).

0217. 62° N., 16° to 19° W., indefinite. (D.S. 555).

0357. 49° N., 30° W., very indefinite (German), doubtful U/B. (D.S. 555).

0930. 60.58 N., 12.39 W., sighted on surface by a/c. (D.S. 556).

1352. 54.25 N., 19° - 20° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 556).

1408. 53° N., 19° - 20° W., very indefinite position. (D.S. 556).

1834. 58° - 59° N., 15° - 18° W., very indefinite position (D.S. 556).

1529. 200' of 47° N., 36° W., very indefinite position (D.S. 556).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1353/13.).

Submarines Attacked.

0836. Following from R.A.F. Stornoway. Sighted and bombed U-Boat at periscope depth in 058° 28' N. 005° 28' W. Course and speed 286° 5 knots, at 0836 (Ends). Have sailed THIRLMERE.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1111/13).

1830. Am attacking firm contact in 054° 48' N. 001° 05' W. (VERSATILE, 1830/13.).
My 1830. 4 attacks have been carried out on very good contact with no visible results. Target is estimated to have moved half mile 140° from position first reported. Contact has now been lost, am rejoining convoy.
(VERSATILE, 1935/13).
Your 1830 13. Non submarines are known to exist in following five positions.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2000/13, to VERSATILE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E Boats. VERSATILE escorting Convoy F.S. 35 was unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes by E boats at 2230 today off Cromer. At 2245 HOLDERNESS and VANESSA sighted and chased E boats 22 miles N.E. of South Wold. HOLDERNESS considers she damaged and may have sunk one of the enemy.

NELSON at sea covering convoys. C. in C. H.F. in NELSON with NIGERIA and 3 destroyers left Scapa at 1900 today to cover the convoys in the N.W. Approaches and to be in a position to intercept any enemy raiders attempting to return to Germany. After 0900 Z/17 they will patrol south of Iceland preparatory to covering Operation S.N. 69.

Shipping & Convoys.

East Coast Convoys. C. in C. Nore 1500/14 discusses the problem of protection of East Coast convoys against E boat attack.

W/T Oscillation. Ships with W/T receivers capable of radiation are not to set W/T watch except to make an enemy report or distress signal, until 4 hours after the dispersal of a convoy.

Mine Reports. M.V's proceeding independently are to report immediately by W/T the position of any parachute mine or other suspicious object seen to drop from enemy aircraft.

U.Boat Campaign. No ship has been reported attacked by a U-boat in home waters for about a week past since Convoy O.B. 293 was attacked on 7/3 and S.S. MENTOR was sunk 300 miles S.W. of Iceland, though LAHORE and 4 other ships were reported sunk early on 8/3 in an attack on Convoy S.L. 67 about 200 miles W. of Cape Blanco.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

With reference to his recent request for aircraft watch on the French west coast ports and the inability of Coastal Command to implement this, C. in C. Plymouth points out that a daily R/C by even one A/C would have a good chance of providing information of incoming ships approaching these ports.

Merchant ship sunk.

F.A.A. torpedo aircraft of the Coastal Command last night carried out offensive patrols from Lister to Horns Reef, in the Heligoland Bight, and from Zeebrugge to the Texel. A 5,000 ton merchant ship was torpedoed and sunk at 2315 15 miles north of Borkum.

Continous R/C was carried out last night by special equipment A/C off Brest.

Enemy Air Activity.

Night attacks on shipping in the Irish Sea are being carried out by enemy aircraft burning navigation lights.

Two survivors of trawler ABERDEEN, bombed and gunned in Cardigan Bay, were landed today.

S.S. STANLEIGH was bombed and sunk at 0100 to-day 12 miles west of Bar Light Vessel, Liverpool.

S.S. ARTEMISIA in Convoy F.N. 32 was bombed and sunk off Cromer to-night.

TYR (Norwegian) was damaged at Humber L.V. but was towed to Immingham.

Drifter PEACEFUL STAR is reported sunk by air attack early this morning while fishing off Louth.

/Attack....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Clyde.

The Clyde was attacked last night. Two destroyers in an early stage of construction GOATHLAND and HALDON were damaged at Fairfields and some damage was caused at this works and at John Browns, Clydebank and Yarrows, though the chief delay to work will be caused by shortage of Labour due to dislocation of transport and evacuation of homeless. The Admiralty oil fuel installation received damage. S.S. CLERMISTON and TREVARRACK were sunk and ATHENE slightly damaged.

The Nore L.V. was slightly damaged by bombs early this morning. Bombs were dropped near ships in harbour at Sheerness, but no damage is reported.

Mining.

In the air raid on the Glasgow area last night parachute mines fell in the city and mines were dropped in the river which is closed to traffic.

Mines were also dropped last night in the Humber, which was closed from 0141/14 to 1120/14.

Salvage tug BULGER was mined and sunk near the Tyne whilst engaged in salving S.S. EMPIRE BREEZE.

L.L. Drifter JEANNIE LEASK was damaged by a mine off Harwich to-day.

S.S. HERPORT in Convoy F.S. 53 was mined and sunk off the Wash this evening.

Falmouth was opened this morning.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration".	Admty. agree to a proposal of F.O.C.N.A that 4 British destroyers are to be considered overwhelming force versus one French destroyer or leader, but in the case of the leader it is desirable to have 6 destroyers.
Enemy Unit.	D/F bearings at 2034/13 G.M.T. place a surface unit in North Atlantic probably between 54° N. and 58° N., with no evidence of longitude.
S.S. ASIE. (French).	MARSDALE encountered French S.S. ASIE and a 3000 cargo ship escorted by French light cruiser ALBATROSS at 2000 to-day off Cape Ghir (Moroceo), bound for Casablanca but took no action.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Activity.	D/F bearings indicated considerable enemy activity in sector 200° to 260° from Malta early this morning.
SURCOUF.	V.A. Malta, suggests the employment of the Free French S/M Cruiser SURCOUF (last reported at Halifax, N.S) to carry freight to Malta, gun and spare torpedos being landed. (SURCOUF, 2880 tons surface displacement, is the world's largest submarine).
Suez Canal.	All sweeping operations in the Canal were prevented to-day by southerly gale, sand storm and strong tide.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation "Appearance".

KANDAHAR, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA, PARVAT, NETRAVATI and tugs left Aden to-day for Operation "Appearance" off the Coast of Eritrea. At 02290/14 KANDAHAR reported she was stopped owing to NETRAVATI's tow parting twice, and suggesting the operation be postponed 24 hours.

VILLE DE VERDUN.

French, passed Sunda Straits yesterday en route for Madagascar, Dakar, Casablanca and Marseilles with a full cargo of rice and pepper.

China.

C. in C. China, makes further proposals for books and cyphers to facilatate Anglo-Dutch-U.S. naval co-operation.

America & West Indies.

U/B Campaign.

There are indications that U-Boat warfare may be extended to the Western side of the Atlantic. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, has been asked to report on additional forces required to protect the approaches to Halifax, and N.A., Washington. to ascertain unofficially what the U.S. reaction is likely to be if a U-Boat began operating in the neutrality zone.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

U.S.10. AUSTRALIA, HOBART and SYDNEY are to remain in the S.W. area until required to escort U.S.10.

A warship similar to "Tribal" class was reported to-day by a coast watcher on Keppel Island, travelling north.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Use of Enemy Rescue Floats.	D/AS.R.S. 31 13/3 Ref. C. in C. Portsmouth 1648/10. D.A/S. R.S. 1440/13. (Adty. 1336/14.)

Movements.

5th D.F.	5 vessels arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0903/14.)
M.T.B.'s to Ramsgate.	Intend to sail all available M.T.B.'s fitted with silent engines to arrive Ramsgate at daylight 17th. (C. in C. Nore 1050/14.)
TORBAY.	My 1115/12. TORBAY is to proceed from 057° 10' N., 013° W., direct to R/V with TRILLIUM and WINDFLOWER at 0800/17 in 270° Barra Head Light 5 miles. Route thence to Holy Loch. (C. in C. W.A. 1143/14.)
NORFOLK.	Is to leave convoys in 22° W., or at 0800/15, whichever is the later, and is to proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1154/14 to C.S.I.)
KING GEORGE V.	Your 1746/13. It is the present intention that KING GEORGE V should return to U.K. after escorting H.X.115. (A.C.N.S.H. 1258/14.)
UNDAUNTED.	Unless in pursuit to the enemy you are not to enter area between latitudes 061° 10' N., and 059° 40' N., and longitudes 000° 50' E., and 3° 10' E., owing to possibility of enemy minelaying. (S.9. 1507/14, to UNDAUNTED.).

/RODNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

RODNEY. Request you keep R.A.(D) and F.O.18 C.S. informed of movement RODNEY and Convoy during my absence at sea. (C. in C. H.F. 1602/14 to Adty.)

EXETER. A.M. 1324/13. EXETER cannot proceed to the Sound until 22/3, for the following reasons. Propose therefore EXETER should sail p.m. 25th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1617/14.)

HOOD. To proceed to Halifax as necessary to act as ocean escort to convoy HX 118 sailing from Halifax on 31/3. (C. in C. H.F.1623/14.)

L.27. Cancel para. 9 of C. in C. Plymouth's 1838/11. You are to leave patrol after dark 17th and proceed diving by day to r.v. 180° St. Catherines 5 miles at 0645/19. Route. (S.S. 1707/14 to L.27.)

SPIREA. My 1255/11. SPIREA probably sailing with
GENTIAN. O G 57 will relieve GENTIAN.(C. in C.W.A. 1709/14, to VACNA.).

REVENGE. My 1743/13. Sailed. E.T.A. to read 1000/16. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1928/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SEALION. Following movements may affect you. (S.S. 2215/14 to SEALION.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

East Coast A/P.Patrols. — Request special A/P patrols quoted in my 1022/10 and 1026/10 be operated again tonight, and until further notice. (C. in C. Nore 0920/14.)

ARGUS. — Adty., 1346/12/3. It is possible that ARGUS will not be able to carry out programme of embarkation by the specified date on account of the river being closed to all navigation until free of mines. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1228/14.)

QD. — Operation Q D will be carried out today Friday. (C. in C. Nore 1259/14.)

Interception of Enemy Forces. — Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in NELSON, NIGERIA, ESCAPADE, ACTIVE, and BOADICEA. (A.C.O.S. 1903/14.)

VERSATILE attacked by E-Boat. — One E Boat in sight bearing 010, one mile, course 070, my position 056 Cromer 14 miles. (VERSATILE 2230/14.)
2 Torpedoes fired at me. No hits. (VERSATILE 2237/14.)

British Air Activity.

A/S Escorts. — 18 Group A/S escorts today. One Sunderland to vicinity 60° 30'.N., 9° 20' W. For onward bound shipping. Single sorties Hudsons to vicinity 59° 57' N.10° 10' W., and 58° 50' N. 9° 30' W., for inward bound shipping. (C. in C. Rosyth 0552/14.)

Patrols. — Following Patrols are being flown today:
S T A B S A S U N S T. (C. in C. Rosyth 0940/14.)

/Request.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Patrols. Request following air R/C (a) R 1 and R 2, preference being given to R 2 at dawn, then evening and lastly mid-day. Starting dawn 15/3. (b) FUGLE as in your 0326/5/2. Starting 15/3. This is less important than R 2.(c) Aircraft from Iceland to watch Denmark Straits. If complete reconnaissance not practicable it should be assumed that passage will be made at night. Start patrols 15/3.
2. The object is to intercept enemy forces returning to Germany and to provide cover for convoys in North West Approaches. It is also required to provide cover for Rear Admiral M in laying S.N.69.
(C. in C. H.F. 1557/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Admiralty request patrol of Denmark Strait during daylight 15/3 and Sunday 16/3, to locate enemy vessels suspected to be breaking through to eastwards.(War Office M.O.8. 1750/14 to Iceland Force.)
Am carrying out two patrols 15/3. First patrol leaving base first light. Second patrol leaving base 1330 hours G.M.T. Further (?patrol) will be carried out on 16/3 unless receive instructions to contrary. (G.O.C. Iceland Force 2100/14.).
Battle aircraft will carry out following patrol Denmark Straits tomorrow. Kaldadarnes Staalbjerghuk 065° 30' N., 024° 30' W., 066° 55' N., 027° W., to 065° N., 027° West to Kaldadarnes. First patrol leaving daylight, second patrol 1330. Similar patrols will be carried out Sunday weather permitting. (F.O. Iceland 2115/14.).
Your 1557/14. Patrols R 1, R 2 and FUGLE will be flown by Sunderland Aircraft of 18 Group to-morrow arriving at extremity at dawn. (C. in C. Rosyth 2212/14 to C. in C. H.F.).

Own A/C fired on. Reference our X333 (T.O.O. 1507) 27/2. Request you expedite reply. (Air Ministry, F.O.6. 1000/14 to Adty.).

/Air Watch.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Air Watch on French Ports.	H.Q.C.C's 1250/13. My 1918/10 only asked for reconnaissance for incoming ships approaching French west coast ports on the assumption that they would make these ports soon after daylight. 2. A daily reconnaissance even by one aircraft would have a good chance of providing the required information. It is realized that this reconnaissance could not be completely efficient. It would also be very useful in locating shipping in the Approaches to the Bay of Biscay.(C. in C. Plymouth 1930/14.)

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE FROST. (Bombed and sunk 13/3.)	Arrived rescue tug SEINE with survivors from EMPIRE FROST. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0158/14.
Ramsgate bombed.	At 0040 A single enemy aircraft dropped one H.E. Bomb in a field near Allenby Road, Ramsgate. No casualties and only slight damage to property. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0722/14.).
ESSEX LANCE (Bombed 12/3.)	Now reported by Cromer Coxswain ESSEX LANCE afloat. Immediate air protection andescort required as vessel is fully laden and open target. (Salvage Officer 0807/14 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
Brest Area.	There has been considerable G.N.A.activity during the early hours of this morning in the Brest area. At least seven aircraft have been engaged. (D.D.I.C. 0942/14.).

/Clyde .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14. 3. 1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Clyde Shipyards Damage in Air Raid. 13/14. GOATHLAND HALDON damaged.	Main damage to Clyde shipyards in last nights raid so far reported comprises the following. (W.P.S. Scottish Area 1150/14.)
Convoy E.N. 84. on 11/3.	Evidence from Commodore of Convoy E.N.84, and N.O.I.C. Dundee shows strong probability that A/C which crashed off Bell Rock about 2040/11/3 from which prisoners were taken by M/S GADFLY was brought down by fouling masthead of S.S. JAMAICA PRODUCER. (C. in C. Rosyth 1435/14.).
Thames Estuary. Nore L.V. damaged.	At 0044 an aircraft, which had previously been circling the area, passed at about 100 feet height from North to South over ships anchored 190° 3½ cables from the Nore Light Vessel and dropped 2 bombs causing slight damage. At 0103 a low flying aircraft passed over Sheerness Harbour from North to South and dropped 2 bombs near ships in the harbour. No minelaying activities suspected. (SO.TLD.F.1443/14.)
Glasgow Area attacked.	Moderately intense air raid Glasgow area continuously from 2100/13 till 0545/14. ANTHONY reports superficial damage. No other war ships in commission have reported any damage but damage to new construction ships and ships converting if any not yet known. Naval casualties 2 slightly wounded. John Brown's, Yarrows, and Fairfields received hits but extent of damage not yet known. Clydebank and Scotstoun suffered considerable damage. Admiralty oil fuel installation at Dalnottar and Old Kilpatrick: tanks hit. (details.) Other damage. Numerous bombs and parachute mines dropped throughout City area and 10 or 11 of these have been identified as unexploded parachute mines.

/A few.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

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/A few.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Glasgow Area attacked.	A few mines or bombs fell in the river, and river is closed to traffic whilst being swept by skids: thereafter river will be opened but swept daily until considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1509/14, S.C.E. Glasgow 1520/14.)
ABERDEEN.	(Fishing Trawler) Two survivors Belgian Nationality ex ABERDEEN landed Barry Docks from S.S. CRAIGPOOL. Trawler bombed and machine gunned in Cardigan Bay. Remainder of crew eight British lost. (N.C.I.C. Barry 2000/14.).
Irish Sea.	Night attacks on Shipping in Irish Sea are being carried out by enemy aircraft burning navigation lights. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2030/14.)
Portland.	At 2230/14enemy A/C dropped 3 H.E. bombs on foreshore below ATTACK. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2347/14.).
STANLEIGH.	(British, 1802 Tons.) Bombed and sunk at 0100/14, 12 miles West of Bar Light Vessel, Liverpool. Six survivors picked up. (D.S. 557.).
Convoy F.N.32. TYR.	(Norwegian, 4265 Tons.) Damaged by Near Miss at 2100/14 off the Humber Light Vessel. (D.O.R. 16/3.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.3.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Humber.	Small number of mines dropped. Humber closed. (F.O. Humber 0141/14.). Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1120/14.).
Clyde.	River Clyde closed to all navigation above Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0718/14.).
NGATIRA. Mined 13/3.)	My 1345/13. NGATIRA has been refloated and towed into docks at Barry. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0909/14.).
BULGER. sunk.	(Salvage tug.) Engaged in salving S.S.EMPIRE BREEZE, mined in Druridge Bay and sunk. Crew all saved. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0917/14.).
Z.M.E.23.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 today for Z M E 23 to lay at 2225 returning on completion about 0345 15th. (PLOVER 1038/14.).
Falmouth.	Cancel my 1435/13. Port of Falmouth open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1112/14.).
BS.51.	Intend TEVIOT BANK, KITTIWAKE, and LA MELPOMENE to sail from Spurn Point at 1700 15, and take departure from 20 G buoy at 0930/16. Returning to 20G. buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1100/16. (S.O. M/L. Immingham 1135/14, and 1302/14.).
9th M/S.F.	Arrival 9th M.S.F. (6 ships.). C. in C. Portsmouth 1157/14.).
SAMLANES. Mined and Sunk 13/3.).	(Norwegian, 842 Tons). My 1818/13. Vessel believed to be SAMLANES. Left Swansea noon/ 12th for Falmouth in company with BOTNE, parted company off Bann Shoal.(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1220/14.).

/Six LL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Six LL. Trawlers for Oban.

In order to strengthen the LL M/S Force in the Western Approaches C in C Nore is requested to sail four and C in C Rosyth two LL trawlers or whalers not fitted S.A. north about for Oban. The operating bases of these ships is at the discretion of C. in C. W.A. (D.M.S. 1514/14.).
Two double L Trawlers not fitted S A are to be sailed Northabout in first available F N convoy to Methil for onward routeing to Oban as soon as practicable. (C. in C. Nore 1740/14 to F.O. Yarmouth.).
2 LL Trawlers not fitted S.A. are to be sailed northabout in first available F N Convoy to Methil for onward routeing to Oban as soon as practicable. (C. in C. Nore 2342/14 to Commodore, Sheerness.).

Plymouth. Request for two LL trawlers.

Recent casualties have reduced the magnetic M/S at Plymouth. Request you will sail two 'LL(Trawlers to Plymouth as soon as convenient. (D.M.S. 1516/14 to F.O.I.C. Portland.).

Procedure for Minesweepers sweeping ahead of Convoys.

Reply to Adty., 2206/12 and C in C Portsmouth 0205/89, of 1/1/40.(C. in C. Nore 1750/14.).

Harwich 2 Mines detonated. JEANNIE LEASK (LL.Drifter). damaged.

One magnetic mine detonated by "LL" Drifter JEANNIE LEASK at 1252 in 51° 44' N. 1° 07.5'E. One mine, presumed accoustic, detonated simultaneously on starboard bow close to. Drifter making water, beached in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1938/14.).

HERPORT.

(British, 2633 Tons.). In F.S.35. Mined and sunk in 053° 15' 25" N., 001° 05' E. Wreck dangerous to navigation. EGLINTON and BASSET picking up survivors. (VERSATILE 1945/14.). 33 Survivors on board EGLINTON and BASSETT, 5 missing. (EGLINTON 2029/14, 2119/14.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Heligoland. Bight.	Night 12/13 March. At 0120/13 in 54° 5'N., 8° 5' E., a fast ship causing very considerable wash like a torpedo boat on course 270°. Heligoland, six miles S.S.W.at 2330 hrs., two capital ships, one possibly a battle cruiser, the other possibly a pocket battleship, appeared to be stationary as no wake was observed, heading 170°. Near to these ships were six smaller ships all stationary. On the north east side of Heligoland at 0055/13, about a dozen small ships possibly destroyers appeared to be at anchor heading south east, no wake was seen. In 53° 53' N., 7° E., at 0030/13, two large cruisers of approximately 10,000 tons in line astern heading 030° unable estimate speed, followed by an "E" boat. (H.Q.B.C. 0520/14.).
German Main Units.	Latest known disposition. (D.D.I.C. 1347/14, and 1801/14.).
E-Boat.	Enemy motor torpedo boat course 120 degrees, speed 30 knots. My position 046 WBY 8. (S.O. 4th Detached Sqdn. 1507/14.). My 1507/ Did not answer challenge. Appearance British. Was unable close. (S.O. 4th Detached Sqdn., 1528/14.). Indications of E boats off Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2125/14.). Two E. Boats bearing 060°. My position Lowestoft 11. (VANESSA 2245/14.). One E Boat in sight bearing 130° my position 048 Southwold 22. (HOLDERNESS 2245/14.). E.-Boat in sight bearing 060°. My position Southwold 29. (HOLDERNESS 2302/14.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.3.1942.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ALYNBANK — (A/A ship). Defect has arisen. Revised date for completion cannot be given till parts are received. (A.S. Rosyth, 1300/14).

AUBRIETIA. — AUBRIETIA, speed reduced to 10 knots by M.P. Slide Valve in main engine. Request instructions.
(AUBRIETIA 2356/14).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

W/T Oscillation.

A.M. 1805/4. Reported that when outward bound convoys disperse all vessels at once switch on their wireless receivers and that excessive mass oscillation immediately results.

Ships with W/T receivers capable of radiation are to be instructed not to set W/T watch, except to make an enemy report or distress signal, until four hours after the convoy has been dispersed, by which time the ships would be widely separated on the dispersal star.
(D.T.D. 1440/14 to N.C.S.O's.)

South Irish Sea.

My 1705/6.(sailing of shipping in South Irish Sea owing to menace of Air Attack). Ships sailed independently from Clyde and Belfast and these from E.N.Convoys on leaving Liverpool portion if capable of 15 knots should proceed indenpendently observing that the passage should be made during dark hours in order to arrive well up Bristol Channel at daylight.
(C.in C. W.A. 1446/14).
Independently routed ships proceeding south through the Irish Sea at less than 15 knots and bound South of Liverpool are to signal by W/T to C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. Plymouth in M.N.C. recoded their estimated time of crossing 53° 48' N. This signal should be made when passing the Mull of Cantire, to facilitate provision of A/A escort.
(D.T.D. 1710/14 to C.in C's A.W.I. S.A. etc.)

H.X. and S.C. Routes.

H.X.116 and subsequent even numbered HX convoys will until further notice reduce speed of advance to that of SC convoy from overtaking until ocean escort leaves, and SC convoys are to be routed 20 miles on starboard beam of the appropriate HX convoy for this period.
(D.T.D. 1708/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

General.
(Contd.)

Enemy A/Cs. in N.W. Approaches.

For N.C.S.O's. Ref: A.M.S.I.311 and A.M.1713 of 29/1. Commodores of convoys and Masters are to be warned that long-range enemy F.W.200 (Condor) aircraft may be expected to operate in the area covered by a circle with a radius of 1000 miles from Bordeaux, Brest or Stavanger. This and the Sunderland are the only 4-engined aircraft at present likely to be met in N.W. Approaches.

F.W.200 (Condor) is a land plane with no structure below the level of the plane. The Sunderland is a flying boat with wing tip floats and a large hull beneath the wings.
(D.T.D. 1809/14 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

Reporting of Mines.

A.M. "ER". Merchant ships proceeding independently are immediately to report by W/T the position of any parachute mine or other suspicious object seen to drop from enemy aircraft. A.M.S.I.89 and "BI" are cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1836/14 to C.B.M.S. all areas).

Kites and Balloons.

Ref: A message 1054/27/2. Instructions are not applicable to vessels in channel convoys or to mobile waterborne balloon barrages at Bristol Channel Falmouth River Tyne, Swansea and River Humber with will continue to operate as formerly.
(D.T.D. 2118/14 to "A" message).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C.23.

41 hours late at R/V heavy weather one straggler. EMPIRE FROST bombed and sunk in Bristol Channel. ULLAPOOL mined and sunk at anchor in Mersey.
(D.T.D. 1814/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.110. 32 hours late at R/V with all ships, heavy weather.
TACONA CITY mined and sunk in Mersey after arrival.
(D.T.D. 1815/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.109. Delayed two days by heavy weather and much scattered. EMPIRE TIGER foundered 26/27 /2. RICHMOND HILL broke down, now arrived Iceland. PERSIER stranded south coast of Iceland. CITY OF ORAN fuel shortage arrived Reykjavik. CADILLAC and PACIFIC torpedoed and sunk. EFFNA and AUGVALD not yet accounted for.
(D.T.D. 1816/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic. My 1738/10. Canso Radio, Nova Scotia, intercepted weak warship raider distress signals from two unknown ships at 0417/12 B.S.T. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU not located since 8/3 and might have moved Northwestwards but distress messages were too vague to confirm this.
At 1120/13, SCARBOROUGH intercepted two ex. Norwegian whale catchers which scuttled themselves 550 miles W. by N. of Cape Finisterre. They had been captured by a raider in South Atlantic. They had been fuelled by a large German tanker in 27° N. 42° W. A 7000-ton raider was in company. No news of whale refineries but they may be further North attempting to reach Germany. No news of SCHEER but informant who stated she was due to arrive Germany about 1/4 was correct about whalers returning home.

South Atlantic Vague D/F indications of a unit somewhere to the South of Ascension on 11/3.

Indian & Pacific Oceans. No fresh information. (D.D.I.C. 1335/14 to C. in C. H.F. F.O.C.N.A etc).

Operating methods. Following from Alsatian steward in the Indian Ocean Raider's Supply Ship (A.2).
1. Visual recognition signals between German Merchant Vessels or raiders and warships (Details).
II. All merchant raiders have numbers for example Indian Ocean Raider No. 16 South Atlantic No. 21 and No. 33, Pacific Ocean Raiders No. 41 and 3. Other numbers not known. Warships do not have numbers.
III. When calling a warship, raider or captured vessel by lamp, false names are used. These names change probably once a fortnight. Names which have been used thus recently in Indian Ocean are. (a) In German Armed Ship SCHEER-SOPHIE TSESA (Spelling of latter half uncertain) (b) For Number 16 - VILLI VILLI (c) For TANNENFELS - TONI IV. Raider 33 was working South Atlantic at the end of February and has done most damage so far. (D.D.I.C. 2117/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration", BANGKOK.

Your 2255/13. Request full description of BANGKOK if it is available. (F.O.C.N.A. 0918/14 to Admty).
My 2107/12. Description of BANGKOK as follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 0929/14. 1612/14 to N.A. Station D.D.I.C. 1429/14 to F.O.C.N.A)

British bombs defective BANDE NERE damaged. Embarkation ports Bari, Naples.

From U.S.N.A. Rome.
(1) On average 50 per cent of our bombs do not explode.
(2) (3) Cruiser BANDE NERE damaged mine several weeks ago now dock Naples. This is not cruiser same class sunk recently.
(4) Navy and Air Force have lost nerve.
(5) More ships sunk en route Albania than we believe.
(6) Germans and material for Tripoli embarked BARI Naples. (N.A. Madrid 1023/14).

N.I.D. Comment.
Para. 2. Report from N.A. Washington on 12/2 (B.3) stated that she was at Naples repairing serious mine damage.

Convoy H.G. 56.

Departure FOLKESTONE OLYMPUS escorting H.G. 56 screened by VELOX until darkness/19 GERANIUM darkness/21 VERBENA as requisite to reach Gibraltar a.m./21. Request C. in C. W.A. may repeat to F.O.C.N.A. signal concerning submarine with H.G. and O.G. convoy while on Home Station. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1616/14).

NORD ATLANTIC GERDA VITH (German).

My 1945/12 according to report (C.O) sailing of NORD ATLANTIC is not to take place at present. Satisfied GERDA VITH reported to be loading 300 tons of lubricating oil and therefore believed preparing to sail. (Consul, Vigo, 1100/14 to Admty).

/H.G. 56.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

H.G. 56.
"Ration".

Admty 2255/13. As H.G. 56 consists of over 30 ships, I intend to sail one Vee destroyer as extra escort. FAULKNOR and FORESTER expected from Freetown today. Until these ships are available four destroyers only can be provided for operation "RATION."
Admty 1407/10/1 para 2 (d) 1. I shall consider overwhelming force to apply only to ships on the spot and not to potential support. Four destroyers to be considered overwhelming in case of escort vessels only, and not if a French destroyer or leader is escorting. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/14 to Admty).
Your 1144/14. Concur regarding potential support. Admiralty are prepared to accept that 4 British destroyers are to be considered overshelming versus one French destroyer or leader but in the case of the leader it is desirable if practicable to have 6 of our destroyers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2102/14 to F.O.C.N.A).
My 1144. Following received from Capt. (D) 8. FAULKNOR and FORESTER E.T.A. Gibraltar 0900/16. Following survivors of merchant ship, 54 officers 16 white ratings and 252 lascars. (F.O.C.N.A. 1836/14 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings from Home Stations at 2034/13 G.M.T. indicate a surface unit may be in North Atlantic probably between 54° N. and 58° N. No evidence of Longitude. (D.D.I.C. 1234/14).

RENE PAUL.

Motor vessel under Belgian flag leaving Lisbon shortly for Barcelona and Marseilles via Gibraltar on special mission. Detain her pending further signal as it is desired to delay her arrival Marseilles and it is undesirable for her to remain Lisbon. (D.E.W.D. 1407/14 to F.O.C.N. A).

/ASAKA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.3.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd);

ASAKA MARU. Request information (a) how much oil she asked for? (b) how much she actually took: (c) where she got it from: (d) if from British controlled source, on whose authority. (D.N.I. 1551/14 to N.A. Lisbon).

H.G. 56, escort. Departure FOLKESTONE, OLYMPUS, escorting H.G. 56 screened by VELOX until darkness 19/3, GERANIUM darkness 21/3, VERBENA as requisite to reach Gibraltar a.m./21. (S.O.I. Gib. 1616/14).

RENOWN & ARK ROYAL. A.T. 1416/9. To leave convoy S.L. 67 at dusk 19/3 and proceed at best speed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 2006/14 to F.O. Force H).

LIVORNO SPEZIA (German). 13/3 departure LIVORNO 14/3 SPEZIA both for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2030/14).

Escorted French Ships. French ship ASIE and 3000 tons cargo ship escorted by Fr. Light Cruiser ALBATROS in 030° 20' N. 010° 17' W. at 2000/14 bound for Casablanca 10 knots. Allowed to proceed. B.N. 749 undecypherable. (MARSDALE 2100/14).

OCTANE. SUROIT. Your 1100/15/2. French tanker OCTANE to be sailed in Convoy destination Swansea where she will be requisitioned. Will telegraph again regarding SUROIT Chief Engineer sails from U.K. 16/3. (B.S.T. 2107/14 to F.O.C.N.A).

French Convoys. Gibraltar 0755/14 Bosnia, armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE escorting French merchant ships BOURGES ST. LOUIS, PLATON, in ballast and IMERETHIE II, Laden, passed west bound. 1431 unknown French trawler escorting French Merchant ships BRESTOIS GABRIEL, GUIST'HAU, ASTREE, ROUBASIEN all laden passed east bound. (S.O.I. Gib., 2115/14).

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.3.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd)

French merchant ships.	Revised orders from French Admiralty for scuttling or immobilization of Merchant ships to avoid capture by H.M. Ships. (D.N.I. 2222/15 to C's in C. Abroad).

South Atlantic.

MAHRONDA. ELENI.	Overdue shipping my 1517/12. MAHRONDA arrived Capetown. Greek ELENI due Capetown 10/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 0928B/14).
CAP DES PALMES.	My 2357/18/2. CAP DES PALMES sailed for U.K. in S.L. 68. (C. in C. S.A. 0937/14).
Convoy Stragglers.	Your 1238/26/2 and N.C.S.O. Freetown's 1203/27/2. Request reasons for vessels dropping out of convoy owing to shortage of bunkers may be carefully investigated by Ministry of Shipping and any information obtained passed to N.C.S.O. and M.S.R. Freetown. (C. in C. S.A.0939/14 to Admty).
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.	My 1935/7. To be sailed in accordance, with Admty 1832/6/3 para 1. (C. in C. S.A. 1001/14 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
MALAYA. WISHART.	Departures 0930/14 MALAYA WISHART in accordance with C. in C. S.A's 2015N/13/3. (C. in C. S.A. 1035N/14 to Admty).
W.S.6. fuelling.	Your 0140/13. To avoid considerable delay in fuelling W.S.6. at Durban, request furnace oil tanker may be detached for fuelling ships direct. (F O.I.C. Simonstown 1048B/14 to D. of S.T).

/AINDERBY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

AINDERBY.	British ship AINDERBY Santos departure 23/2 due Freetown 10/3 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1258/14).
MADRAS CITY. suspicious warship 18/2.	Your 1523/9 (W.R. unable to trace) Master MADRAS CITY reports: Just before daylight 18/2 he was challenged by a ship flashing "What Ship". MADRAS CITY turned away and flashed his signal letters G B P B, challenger thereafter continued flashing what ship and MADRAS CITY replied G B P B on each occasion until day broke when warship closed MADRAS CITY and could read name on bows. (N.C.S.O. Lagos 1400/14 to Admty).
Africa Coast Defence.	C. in C. S.A. 1405N/14 to Admty (See Operations Volume).
Operation "Pageant".	Following despatched PAGEANT 4/3 (Details) (Air Ministry 1442/14 to R.A.F. Takoradi etc)
Re Sweeps to be sent to Turkey and Aden.	(D.M.S. 1845/14 to S.N.O. Simonstown).
Concentrated patrol of Plate area by Cruisers.	My 2311/3. Cruisers fuelled FO 13/3 now patrolling Outer Plate Area working to northward probably fuelling from oiler ARNDALE off San Sebastian Island about 24/3. Cruisers then return to L 32 and oiler ARNDALE roceed to Trinidad. ASTURIAS leave Buenos Aires 20/3 and return K 32 K 33. 1937Z/14.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Your 1128/10. Concur. Future movements (D.O.D.(F) 0015/14 to C. in C. Med) See Mediterranean Volume.

Enemy Activity. From D/F bearing there is considerable enemy activity in sector 200° to 260° from Malta. (Capt. S.I, 0421/14 to UPRIGHT).

SURCOUF as freight carrier. In view of difficulties of running convoys to Malta suggest SURCOUF might be adapted to carry freight, gun and spare torpedoes being landed. Normal convoy would have to be brought in at intervals to deal with bulky cargoes such as wheat, coal and cased oils, also refrigerated goods, but SURCOUF would be made useful for keeping up stocks of less bulky but equally important services and civilian stores. (V.A. Malta 1025/14 to C.in C. Med.).

Mining of Suez Canal. Re use of seismographs to locate mines. (C. in C. Med 1252/14).
V.A. Malta 1025/14. Strongly support this suggestion and request practicability be investigated urgently. (C. in C. Med 1524/14)

Dekheila. Terms of tenure of Dekheila to be used for Fleet Air Arm purposes for the duration of the war. (R.A. Alexandria 1110/14)

Tripoli bombed. Night 12/13. 3 Wellingtons dropped 5000 lbs along main quayside and naval basin Tripoli causing violent explosion near lighthouse. 4th Wellington unable locate Tripoli bombed Zlitene, hitting a building.

Valona 1 M.V. sunk. by F.A.A. torpedo. GREECE. Night 12/13. 3 Blenheims dropped 3025 lbs. bombs on aerodrome and foreshore Valona and Saseno Island, some bursting near railway north of jetty Valona. 5 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked shipping Valona with torpedoes, sinking 1 ship. 1 Swordfish failed to return. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1159/14).

/Salonika.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Salonika, shipping.	Reply to Admty 1538/13. (N.A. Athens 1305/14) See Mediterranean Volume.
A.S.19.	9 ships for Port Said, 1 Alexandria, 1 Suda Bay (list) (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1310/14 to C. in C. Med).
ILLUSTRIOUS.	Your 1403/12. Request reply to last two paras. of A.T. 0109/11 which were:- (d) Structural strength. (e) Ability to operate aircraft. (D.O.D.(F) 1324/14 to ILLUSTRIOUS).
Sailings, Mersin to Port Said.	My 1024/13 para (C) first ship ISTIKBAL should leave Mersin for Port Said approx. 17/3. Second ship will be ready to sail one week later. (2) C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area informed of full details. (N.A. Ankara 1718/14).
Spanish S/M's.	Your 1335/11. Adty message 373A of 28/8/40 and 452A of 8/10/1940 do not appear to make provision for the special agreement regarding movements of Spanish submarines in Strait of Gibraltar referred to in Adty message 1720/31/12/1939 and confirmed by N.A. Madrid's 1340/7/1/40. Can it be assumed that the agreement is still in force. (C. in C. Med 1726/14 to Admty).
Mining of Suez Canal.	Situation at 2000/14. No change. All sweeping operations prevented by Southerly Gale, sand storm and strong tide. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1822/14).
Sweepers, Turkey.	Admiral Kelly's 1215/10. Speed of 6 or 7 knots will suffice for S.A. and L.L. Sweepers if no better vessels can be found. (D.M.S. 1843/14 to C. in C. Med).
Suez.	Position 14/3 heavy weather has stopped all work in Suez Roads. (D.S.T.O. Suez 1910/14).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

KANDAHAR
NETRAVATI

My position 205° Ras Marshag 10. Stopped owing to NETRAVATI's tow parting twice. Due to this am delaying sailing. Probably convoy will be some hours late. Submit consideration be given to postponing operation 24 hours. (KANDAHAR, 0229C/14 to S.N.O. Red Sea.)

Enemy M.V's Scuttling

My 0520/12 (Re warning Italians about scuttling of Merchant ships) General Wavell asks Admiralty to take no action without consulting him of approximate date. (C. in C., E.I., 0622/14 to Admty.)

Raider ATLANTIS
(Now TAMESIS)

Description.
(8) Mines were laid by this ship, route Indian Ocean about a year ago off Cape of Good Hope.
(9) Confirm one seaplane carried.
(11) Ship extremely well fitted out with spares, repair shops and artificers.
(C. in C., E.I., 1152/14)

W.S. 6.

P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1301/13. Comply with my 0644/13. (C. in C., E.I., 1308Z/14 to S.N.O. Red Sea.)

Transport Service

Your 2059/8. Subject concurrence C. in C. E.I., propose responsibility S.T.O. Egypt extends to all ports in Eritrea and D.S.T.O. Mombasa to all ports in Somaliland. (D. of S.T., 1630 to S.T.O Egypt.)

NIDARLAND
KATTEGAT

Have you news of these Norwegian ships both due Colachel? (D.T.D. 1817/14 to S.O.I. Colombo)

Sweeps for Turkey

Two magnet sweeps Mark II 3 star with spares are to be forwarded at the earliest opportunity to Port Said to be held available for Turkish Govt. (D.M.S. 1844/14 to N.O.I.C., Aden.)

/Operation....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Operation "Appearance"

Departure KANDAHAR, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA, PARVATI, NETRAVATI and Tug ZEILA and RIO NERVIAN for Operation "Appearance" (N.O.I.C., Aden, 1950Z/14)

China

VILLE DE VERDUN (French)

Following is a repetition of my 0753Z/11
Departure 9/3 French ship VILLE DE VERDUN for Madagascar, Dakar, Casablanca and Marseilles. Full cargo of rice and 150 tons pepper. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0131Z/14, to Admty.)
Passed Sunda Straits 13/3 (C.O.S. Singapore 1505/14 to C. in C., E.I.)

TAMESIS

Admty. 1954/8 and your 0319/9. Norwegian TAMESIS arrived. Agents request instructions that ship should not proceed North of Hong Kong and that cargo must be discharged here. They consider if ship proceeds Shanghai and there unloads cargo destined Japan that Japanese may interfere with ship. (Comm. Hong Kong, 0947Z/14 to C. in C., China)

Anglo-Dutch Co-operation

Your 1908/11/2.
It has been found necessary to extend distribution of locally produced Anglo-Dutch books to U.S. Asiatic Fleet.
There are now two sets of inter allied books in Far East but no cypher common to all three nations.
Consider it essential permission be given for Admiralty-produced Anglo-American U.S. books to be distributed in sealed envelopes to Dutch. (C. in C., China, 1403/14 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Orders for VAN KINSBERGEN, CARADOC

Italian ships ANTEO and RAPALLO may sail shortly from Cartagena. VAN KINSBERGEN fuel Curacoa forthwith embark telegraphists and proceed at 20 knots to patrol off Cartagena. CARADOC proceed Jamaica to fuel thence proceed to relieve VAN KINSBERGEN off Cartagena. Before leaving Jamaica CARADOC instruct VAN KINSBERGEN as to R.V. Ships patrolling off Cartagena endeavour to avoid being sighted. Curacoa inform VAN KINSBERGEN. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1031/14)

Requirements for homeward passages from Bermuda

Owing to (A) Upper limit of speed for ships sailing in convoy having been lowered to 13 knots (B) Suspension of PSNC service. (C) Suspension of BHX convoys, requirements for homeward passages from Bermuda are becoming increasingly difficult to meet.
2. Passage requirements (details)
3. Passage via Canada or U.S. is undesirable owing to length of journey and question of dollar funds.
4. In order to relieve situation propose to instruct following ships to call at Bermuda when bound for U.K.
(A) Fast independent ships from Panama Canal with passenger accommodation.
(B) Ships who have disembarked men and guns at Bermuda on outward voyage in accordance with Admiralty 1516/17 (1546/27 intended?), and require others for homeward voyage. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1204/14 to Admty.)

French M.V's Scuttling

Following revised orders from French Admiralty for scuttling or immobilization of Merchant ships to avoid capture by H.M.Ships. (Details) (N.O.I.C., Trinidad 1213/14)

/Raider .....

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Raider Report 12/2

Your 1021/14 (Requesting exact text of message received from Canso Radio) Following is extract from W/T Log Canso Office. March 12. 0317 G.M.T. Weak RRRR two ships unreadable through QRM and QRJ. 0330 called VCS (Camperdown) enquired if heard RRRR signals ends. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1302/14 to Admty.)

Orders for TALISMAN

To avoid eastbound shipping keep to northward of line joining 043° 00' 050° 00' and 044° 30' 062° 00' after passing through position G vide A.A.L.W.A.1040/3 See also my 1521/12. (B.S. 3. 1401/14)

Possible U/B Newfoundland

My 2050/13 (Unknown enemy unit 200 miles of 47° N., 36° W.) It is possible that this U/B intends to operate on Trade routes to Southward of Newfoundland. (D.D.I.C. 1448/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa,etc.)

Diversion of SS NEW YORK CITY

BR NEW YORK CITY from Clyde for Portland Maine was routed through 38° 50' N., 72° 20' W. Master reports that protest against this entirely unnecessary diversion was ignored. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1521/14)
Possibility of enemy U-Boat warfare being extended to western side of Atlantic has always existed. Recently indications that preliminary moves by the enemy may even now be in progress. Appreciated that your forces are slender Requested that you will report:
(a) Details of surface and air forces that will be available in the immediate future.
(b) Minimum additional forces required to augment those now available to ensure adequate protection to the approaches to Halifax, and extent to which this requirement can be met from Canadian resources. (D.O.D. (H) 2244/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
From D/F bearings it is probable that a U-Boat is about to operate on the Western side of the Atlantic. (D.O.D. (H) 2316/14 to N.A. Washington)

/U.S. Coastguard.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

U.S.Coastguard Cutters	My 1815/7. Officers and men for ten coastguard cutters can be provided now. (asking for further information) (Head of M. 1550/14 to N.A. Washington)
U.S. Aircraft	Re types for aircraft carriers. (1st S.L. 2245/14 to N.A. Washington) See Operations Volume.

Australia

AUSTRALIA HOBART SYDNEY U.S. 10	A.C.N.B. 0920Z/14. AUSTRALIA, HOBART and SYDNEY will remain in south-west area until required for escort of U.S.10 Not anticipated they will be required to sail from Fremantle before (date) (AC.N.B., 0930Z/14)
Censorship	Asking if censorship procedure laid down in Admty 2239Z/13/1 to which we are now conforming has since been altered. (D.N.I., Melbourne 1304Z/14 to Admty, D.N.I)

New Zealand

Warship Report	Coastwatcher Keppel Island reports warship passed p.m./14th from south-east travelling north. Appearance tribal class, but straight bow 1 funnel 2 guns turrets forward. Hull slate colour, no flag flying. (S.O.I., Wellington, 2038Z/14 to Capt. O.S. Singapore)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Newfoundland	Possible that a German U/B is moving towards Halifax shipping lanes off Newfoundland. Otherwise, dispositions remain much the same (D.S., 556, 14/3) See also America & West Indies.
0434	Between Madeira and Azores, very indefinite position (Italian) (D.S. 556)
	Join trawler in contact with Sub. 3 miles south of Breakwater (C. in C., Plymouth 1955/14 to READING, NIAGARA) Search abandoned. Returning to refuel (Capt. D. 3 2026/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	(D.D.I.C., 1345/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.3.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E.C. and E.N. Convoys.

With a view to eliminating delays to ocean going shipping E.N. Convoys will not run after 31/3.
They will be replaced by E.C. Convoys which will run non-stop from Southend to the Clyde.

Fog

Fog off the East Coast dislocated convoys and held up movements of ships today.

E. Boats

At 0005 today HOLDERNESS and VANESSA again sighted E Boats off Southwold and consider they sank one of the enemy.

U-Boat Campaign

SS SARPEDON reported sighting a U-Boat in the North Channel early this morning.
SS IXION, belonging to convoy H.X. 112 but apparently proceeding independently ahead reported this morning that she was being chased by a U-Boat on the Northern Approach Route. A Sunderland searched for this U-Boat and crashed on landing in bad weather, 7 of the crew being killed.
Late tonight a U-Boat made a first sighting report, apparently of Convoy H.X. 112.
(See 16/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Actiwity

Air patrols were ordered for today, to intercept enemy forces which it was thought possible might be breaking through to Germany from the Atlantic.

R/C from Iceland was cancelled owing to the weather, and in the afternoon R/C in the area where C. in C., H.F. is operating was also cancelled.

HIPPER-Class Cruiser

An attack by 12 aircraft of Coastal Command against the HIPPER Class Cruiser at Brest was ordered for early this morning.

The Cruiser was not at the Torpedo Station but a large ship which may have been the HIPPER was attacked in the Rade D'Abri. The cruiser was later this morning seen at the T.B.Station.

Special patrols were flown along the French Bay of Biscay Coast and in the Bay during day and night 15/3 to intercept the HIPPER Class cruiser in the event of her sailing.

Three Blenheims attacked the docks at Rotterdam last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

C. in C., Nore recommends that trawlers should not be kept on patrol during the day time, owing to losses from air attack.

Convoy F.N. 32 was attacked twice early this morning, off the N.E. Coast of Norfolk and SS ARTEMISIA was sunk.

BRITOMART was holed above the waterline and her C.O. and another officer were killed when 1st M/S.F. was attacked this afternoon while at anchor in Rye Bay.

Liverpool was attacked again last night and SS SCOTTISH CHIEF, ORWELL and tug MINEGARTH were damaged.

9 Skuas were damaged by attack on St. Eval last night.

Plymouth was attacked last night and considerable damage was caused in the North Yard.

Glasgow was attacked again last night and the Admiralty Oil Fuel installation received further damage. SS TREVARRACK was damaged in the Clyde.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation
Z.M.E. 23

PLOVER laid mines in St. George's Channel last night.

Tug WARRIOR was damaged by a mine in the Clyde today, near the entrance to the River Cart. Two other mines were destroyed.

Milford Haven is opened at 1430 daily, ships with I.C. engines being towed.

Liverpool is opened during the afternoon until dark daily with the exception of Birkenhead Docks and certain other areas.

North Atlantic

S.O.Force H considers that the battle cruisers sighted by MALAYA's aircraft on 8/3 may have been dummy as they declined action and did not train their turrets.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Operations

Four Wellingtons were sent out from U.K. to Malta today. One signalled at 0545 that it was being attacked. It failed to arrive.

A single German A/C bombed Hal Far aerodrome today but caused no damage.

3 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked shipping at Valona last night with torpedoes and hit one ship. The Italian press state that this was the hospital ship PO

Mining of Suez Canal

An S/A sweeper was damaged at km 28 this morning. Traffic has been resumed between Port Said and Geneiffe. There is no change in the southern sector.
ILLUSTRIOUS arrived at Ismailia today.

Mining of Malta

A Gozo fishing boat exploded a magnetic mine in the Grand Harbour today and was sunk.

Enemy Convoy

At 0750 today a convoy of about 20 merchant vessels and Naval Units was sighted by air R/C midway between Pantellaria and Cape Bon

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.3.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Operation "Appearance"

GLASGOW, CALEDON and KINGSTON left Aden this afternoon for Operation "Appearance"

China

It is reported that the Italian RAMB 2 was sighted at 0930Z/12 between the Celebes and Moluccas. The vessel was last reported at Massawa on 21/2.

DELHI is to refit in U.S.A.

America & West Indies

SS SAN CASMIFO, SIMNIA Attacked by raider.

At 1624 a message was received from Portishead Radio that tanker SAN CASIMIRO (outward bound in ballast) reported a merchant ship raider in 39° 58' N., 43° 19' W.,(midway between the Azores and Halifax N.S. at 1415) and that her message was being jammed. The signal indicated that another ship was in company with the raider. Later tanker SIMNIA (also in ballast) reported being shelled by a warship raider 35 miles north of the same position. RODNEY who had joined Convoy H.X. 114 at 2000/15 in 49° W., was ordered to detach one A.M.C. (to be addressed as Force M) and THUNDERBOLT to search the area and protect shipping. Force X (KING GEORGE V and SEVERN) was also given discretion to operate against the raider provided arrival at Freetown was not delayed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MAPLIN. — Completion date, mid-May, given by you for MAPLIN not acceptable. Prime Minister directs extreme priority for this vessel. Concentrate labour as necessary from other Adty work and report any delays, present or foreseen, by reason of priority contracts or sub-contracts for other Govt. depts. (Controller 1328/15).

Auxiliary Patrols. — Re. A.L. MM/SC 74/41 of 5th/3/41 recommend that the instructions contained in A.L.M. 010210/40 of 26/5/40 should now be cancelled. In the Southern part of Nore Command, trawlers cannot be kept on patrol during the day time without accepting great loss from air attack. Extensive auxiliary patrols are carried out at night along swept channel and minesweeping trawlers carry out search sweep of most channels by night. (C. in C. Nore 1936/15).

Defence of U.K.

Portsmouth and Southampton A/A Defences. — Your 1754/13. No H.A.A. weapons at present available for allotment to Portsmouth and Southampton. Fighter Command investigating G.L. situation in that area. (Air Ministry 0940/15 to Adty). Your 1843/12 was repeated to Air Ministry with request for favourable consideration of submission of 35 A.A. Bde. Following reply received begins(See Air Ministry 0940/15).
2. If some solution is not reached sooner, and this is unlikely, matter will be given full consideration in connection with April allocation from production.
(D. of L.D. 2035/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Orkneys and Shetlands A/A Defences. — Requirements for defence of Orkney and Shetland against attack by low flying aircraft were considered in principle by C.O.S. (A.A) Sub-Committee on 14/3. Decided that it was desirable full to review requirements on the spot.
3. A R/C party of officers associated with the C.O.S.(A.A) Sub-Committee representing Adty, Air Min. F.C. and W.O. and A.A. Command will visit Orkney to discuss problem and prepare a comprehensive plan.

/Please.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Orkneys and Shetlands A/A Defences (Contd.)	Please suggest dates in the near future for this visit. (D. of L.D. 1330/15 to A.C.O.S.).

Movements.

3rd M/L F. for Gibraltar.	A.M. 2208/13 para. 2. Request corvette detailed may arrive Falmouth A.M./21. (C.in C. Plymouth 1146/15).
H.50.	My 1354/4. Sailed escorted by LADY HOGARTH. E.T.A. 1200/16. (Commodore, Western Isles 1600/15).
L.L. Trawlers for Oban.	Your 1514/14. Request first pair be sailed for Holyhead second Fleetwood Third Ardrossan for subsequent employment at Oban. (C.in C. W.A. 1720/15).
WATCHMAN.	Owing to recent strike completion postponed to 21/3. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1815/15).
CUTTY SARK.	My 1949/28/2. The escort commitments in the Clyde Area have again increased and I now intend to retain CUTTY SARK until both LA CAPRICIEUSE and CHEVREUIL have completed repairs. (F.O.S. 1838/15).
6th M/L. F.	6th M.L. Flotilla are to be sailed for Harwich forthwith. Request you arrange accordingly. (A.C.N.S.H. 1856/15 to R.A.C.F.).
DERBYSHIRE CHITRAL CIRCASSIA CALIFORNIA	(i) Intend DERBYSHIRE arrive Iceland 24/3 thence to patrol subsequently arriving Halifax 10/4. (ii) Your 1130/13 not to all addressees. CHITRAL not now required vide paragraph (i) Request you will amend her orders accordingly (iii) Anticipate CIRCASSIA will arrive Iceland 30/3 for patrol. CALIFORNIA thus not required. Further signal will be made. (F.O.C.N.P. 2224/15 to B.S.3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats. Engagements 14/15 March.

Following is summary of E/Boat actions last night Friday/Saturday.
One E Boat bearing 035°. My position Southwold 25 miles. (HOLDERNESS 0005/15).
My 0005 3 E-Boats. (HOLDERNESS 0007/15).
1. 2245 HOLDERNESS and VANESSA in position 048 Southwold 22 engaged and chased E-boats in path of moon at range of 4500 yards. At 2308 when close to mine barrier E-boat disappeared after 2 salvoes had straddled. HOLDERNESS considers E-boat certainly damaged possibly sunk. Towards end of action HOLDERNESS attacked by aircraft with cannon gun. Superficial damage no casualties. Destroyers returned to dark side of channel.
2. 0005 3 E-boats sighted in path of moon range 5500 yards. Destroyers altered towards at high speed withholding fire in hope of closing range. At 0008 when E-boats turned away range 4500 yards destroyers opened fire. One E-boat's smoke apparatus failed after 3 salvoes fell round her and after being under heavy fire for 12 minutes she disappeared although right in path of moon and clear of smoke at range of 3000 yards. At same time A.S.V. showed target reduced from 3 to 2 boats. Consider this E-boat probably sunk.
3. 2230 VERSATILE with FS 35 in position 056 Cromer 14 reported one E-boat course 070°. At 2237. VERSATILE reported 2 torpedoes dired at her. (C.in C. Nore 1530/15 and 2036/15).

Operation OBSTACLE

My 1752/13. Destroyers part company 1100/15 in 051° 16' N. 4° 30' W. READING proceed to Londonderry, NIAGARA to Swansea. (C.in C. Plymouth 0618/15 to H.Q.F.C., 0733/15, 0748/15).

ARGUS Operation "Winch".

My 1905/6 and 1346/12. ARGUS will proceed to Gibraltar in company with SHEFFIELD, MAIDSTONE, HIGHLAND MONARCH, NAPIER and NIZAM. (A.C.N.S. F. 1045/15).

/ Western ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Western Channel Patrol.

Detach KELLY, KELVIN and JACKAL in time to establish a patrol between longitude Wolf Rock and Eddystone by 2100. Object of patrol is to cover shipping sailing westward from Plymouth. (C. in c. Plymouth 1332/15).

Patrols off Portland.

Detail four M LS to patrol a line south of Portland Bill to the westward just North of QZ X 267 as far as 3° W. and act as a screen to range as far east as 2° 20' W. Four Chasseurs will leave Needles at 1945 and patrol a line on 50° 20' N. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 10' W. until 0400 when they are ordered to act as screen for range until arrival at Needles. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1507/15 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

M.G.B's. Patrol K.

M.G.B's are not to proceed to sea today. Fog reported from Norfolk Coast to Holland. WORCESTER and WHITSHED carry out patrol K as far as practicable, anchoring if necessary. (C. in C. Nore 1646/15 to Capt. D.16).

British Air Activity.

Off Ostend.

On 14/3 one A/C attacked one M/V 800 to 1000 Tons 12 miles off Ostend. 2 bursts seen on either side of bow and then raked with M.G. fire. (H.Q.B.C. 0035/15).

Patrols.

Patrols today HORNLI S.A. 3 FAIR UNST. (C. in C. Rosyth 0828/15).
Your 56412 (M.O.8) 14/3. First patrol cancelled bad weather. Second patrol unlikely present conditions. (G.O.C. Iceland 1000/15 to War Office).

/My 2115/14.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols. (contd).

My 2115/14. Air R/C for today cancelled owing to weather conditions. (F.O. Iceland 1121/15 to C. in C. H.F).
Conditions unsuitable for flying both from Iceland and in your area. (A.C.N.S. H. 1543/15 to C. in C. H.F).
My 0628 15/3 T.O.O. 1000/15. Second patrol cancelled owing to bad weather. Patrols will be carried out 16/3 weather permitting. First patrol leaving base first light. Second patrol leaving base 1330 G.M.T. (G.O.C. Iceland 1652/15 to War Office).
Patrols R two and R one will be flown 16/3 by aircraft of 18 Group commencing from eastern ends. Patrol Fugle completed two circuits nothing sighted today.
Patrol R two completed two circuits reported suspected mines in position V J Q L 4847 and V J M Q 2727 today. Patrol R one completed three circuits nothing of importance to report. (C. in C. Rosyth 1848/15).

Bombing Restrictions.

My 1332. Request bombing restrictions for Destroyers. (C. in C. Plymouth 1334/15 to H.Q.C.C.).

Night 14/15.

Three Blenheims attacked docks at Rotterdam. (H.Q.B.C. 1858/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N. 32.
ARTEMISIA.
(Bombed 14/3).

VERDUN's 2321/14. 2 tugs leaving Yarmouth for you. (C. in C. Nore 0007/15 to SHELDRAKE).
ARTEMISIA in FN 32 bombed and on fire aft in 52° 53' N. 01° 39' E, SHELDRAKE standing by. Two tugs sent from Yarmouth. Prospects of salvage reported good. (C. in C. Nore 0046/15).
My 0046/15. Ship now sunk in 52° 50' 45" N. 01° 38' 30" E. after part on bottom fore part showing. Salvage doubtful. Captain and 46 survivors on board SHELDRAKE. (C. in C. Nore 0215/15) (SHELDRAKE 0054/15).
Arrival at 1405/15 LA MELPOMENE. Captain and 47 survivors of ARTEMISIA landed. Total survivors 48. (Grimsby Base 1751/15).

Convoy F.N.32
(bombed 15/2)

Convoy AGENT being bombed. My position 53° 22' N. 0° 58' E. (VERDUN 0218/15)
My 0218 4 bombs, no hits. (VERDUN 0222/15).

Plymouth.

Attacked by aircraft between 2030 and 0038. H.E. and incendiaries in North Yard and RALEIGH. Boiler machine shop considerable damage H.E. other damage. No casualties. (C. in C. Plymouth 0134/15).

TYR.
(bombed 14/3)

(Norwegian 4265 Tons) Tug SABINE passed Spurn Point outwards 1040 to assist s.s. TYR. (F.O. Humber 1045/15).
S.S. TYR arrived Immingham Dock 1930. Tug SABINE and IRISHMAN, Salvage vessel NESSUS and CITY DE LONDRES in attendance. (F.O. Humber 2120/15).

801 Squadron.
St. Eval.

9 Skuas of 801 Squadron damaged by enemy action at St Eval during night 14/15. Expect to make 3 of these serviceable by P.M./18 and a further 5 serviceable by P.M/21. One remaining aircraft will require salvage and repair by depot. Three aircraft of 801 Squadron serviceable and ready for operation at St. Eval. (St. Merryn 1303/15 to R.A.N.A.S).

/ESSEX.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

ESSEX LANCE. (Bombed 12/3).	Departure rescue tug DIVERSION to ESSEX LANCE off Cromer at 1427. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1453/15).
Glasgow Area. Oil Tanks destroyed Night 13/14.	My 1520/14. 9 more destroyed last night damage elsewhere not yet known owing to partial breakdown of communications. (Supt. C.E. Glasgow 1500/15). My 1509/14. Following Naval Establishments are affected. (details). (B) Casualties to Naval Personnel, Nil so far reported except two F.N.F.L. liberty men killed. (D) Following yards affected. Details. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2200/15).
Plymouth.	Air raid on evening of 14/3 caused damage as follows. (S.C.E. Devonport 1545/15)
BRITOMART bombed.	C.O. and another officer of BRITOMART killed in bombing attack while ship was at anchor Rye Bay about 1630 today. Ship holed above waterline. No further damage to other ships of 1st M/S Flotilla. Am sending BRITOMART with SHARPSHOOTER to Portsmouth forthwith. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1653/15).
Irish Sea.	Night Attacks on shipping in Irish Sea are being carried out by enemy aircraft burning navigation lights. (C. in C.W.A. 1735/15);
Enemy A/C off Cornwall.	Following intercepted from enemy aircraft begins; my position 050° 44' N. 005° 59' W. and I shall remain here. T.O.O. 1706 ends. (C. in C. Plymouth 1811/15 to REVENGE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ZME. 23. Operation completed. (PLOVER 0415/15).

SN 100. My 1939/9. Report on operations 14/3. (R.A.M. 0941/15).

Brightlingsea. 2 Mines detonated 14/3. Drifter JENNY LESKE detonated two mines in 51° 43' 48" N. 1° 07' 30" E at 1245/14. (S.O. A.P. Brightlingsea 0950/15).

Dungeness - Beachy Head. Clearance Sweep. Mine clearance operation 14th March. (V.A. Dover 0958/15).
Suggest you extend area in A.M. 2003/11 by 12 cables to southeastward before you leave Dover area. Request your proposals. (V. A. Dover 1309/15 to M.S.1).
Reply (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1456/15 to V.A. Dover)
Your 1653 Unless visibility is very low you are to remain underweigh to-night as convenient between ROYAL SOVEREIGN and long. 00° 30' W. (V.A. Dover 1836/15 to M/S 1).
Your 1836/15. Received and understood. (S.O. M/S 1 2101/15 to N.O.I.C. Dover).
Mine clearance operations 15/3. (V.A. Dover 1859/15).
Your 1856/15. Consider better use Mine-sweepers for dan lay so drifters not required (S.O. 1st M.S.F. 2103/15 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

Milford Haven. Port is opened at 1430 each day. Ships with I.C. engines are towed. Six berths in convoy anchorage are considered safe and as far as possible, ships for O convoys receive their orders and are organised into convoy outside the harbour. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1001/15).

F.D. 31. Carry out following operation. (F.O.S. 1102/15 to S.3) See Operations Volume.

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.3.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Liverpool. My 1856/13. Port will be opened at 1280 (?) to allow outward and inward movements to take place but will be closed at dark until completion of sweep a.m. tomorrow. This routine to continue till further notice. Birkenhead docks remain closed and anchorage between lines Princes Stage. Woodside and New Ferry, remains prohibited. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/15).

ULLAPOOL. (Mined 13/3); Sunk in River Mersey in about 215° 1500 feet from North end of Princes Stage. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1310/15).

SME. 24. Details. Operation to be carried out on night 17/3 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1335/15).

S.N. 4. Arrangements should be made to carry out operation S.N. Four after S.N. Sixty Nine. (V.C.N.S. 1339/15).

Oban. My 0103/13 and 1730/14 L.L. and S.A. Sweepers have completed search of suspected area. Further 3 days search necessary by L.L. Sweepers until possible delay devices render mine active. No S.A. Sweepers now at Oban.
My 1830/13 regarding entrance to Oban and convoy anchorage still in force.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 2050/15).

Clyde. 3 Mines detonated. WARRIOR damaged. 2 Magnetic mines destroyed in River Clyde to-day 1st mine entrance to River Cart. 2nd mine off Shieldhall Wharf. Tug WARRIOR towing tanker FERNCOURT damaged by third mine at entrance to River Cart, subsequently beached. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2358/15).

S.S. EMINENT. (Belgian 500 tons) Mined 1345/15. Approx 51° 32' N. 5° 37' W. DCL 556 19/3/41.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Warships in Heligoland Bight.	Ten miles due north of Borkum at 2220/13. Hampden observed 8 M/V's about 2 to 3,000 tons in convoy sailing due west. At 2240/13 in 53° 50' N. 8° E. two M/V's one 6,000 and the other 2,000 tons steaming West. At 2155/13 in 53° 57' N. 7° 53' E. two ships, one a Destroyer, the other larger, heading west at fast speed, large wash easily visible 5 to 600 yards long. Three miles north of Neuwork 2210/13 a convoy of 8 large and 5 small ships moving slowly and altering course from 330° to 350° true. Mouth of Elbe between Trischen and Neuwork at 2200/13. 7 small ships heading N.N.W. Probably minesweepers. At 0004/14 in 53° 50' N. 6° 30' E. 15 to 20 ships with large revolving red lights course 250° in line astern. Not very fast. At 2200/13 in 53° 55'N. 7° 50' E. one large and two smaller vessels course 290° all very fast. At 0038/14 in 53° 50' N. 7° 50' E. six 4,000 ton M/V's heading 270°. (H.Q.B.C. 0035/15).
Brest HIPPER Cruiser.	Hipper cruiser still present surrounded with net at T.B. Station. (Pru. St. Eval 1240/15) (D.D.I.C. 2129/15).
Enemy Force on 7/3.	SEALION's 1045/7/3 Re Minelaying forces sighted. Details. No attack was carried out. (S.6. 1800/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Introduction of E.C. Convoys.

At a meeting held at the Admiralty on 11/3 at which Cs. in C. Nore and Rosyth were represented it was decided, with view to eliminating delays to ocean going shipping whilst at the same time providing adequate facilities for coasters, no E.N. Convoy will be sailed after 2359/31/3. E.N.Convoys will bereplaced by E.C.Convoys on 1/4 and these convoys will run non-stop from Southend to the Clyde.
A cycle on the following lines is proposed:-
X day EC(F)
X + 1 day EN(S)
X + 2 days -
X + 3 days EC(M)
X + 4 days FN/F)
X + 5 days E C(S)
X + 6 days FN (M)
(F) (M) and (S) indicate respectively convoys for ships capable of 9 knots, 8 knots and 7 knots.

3. C.in C. Rosyth, is requested to promulgate detailed programme.

4. Methil Commodores and Staffs will be transferred to Southend as arranged between N.C.S.O's Methil and Southend.

5. WN and FS Convoys will continue to run as at present except that, commencing on 1/4 convoys are to run in the cycle of one (F) one (M) and one (S).
(D.T.D. 1028/15 to A.I.G.47).

JENNY MOLLER.

Chinese crew refuse duty. Send off patrol vessel for further information. Ship is in Barry Roads.
(JENNY MOLLER 1200/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Convoys, Procedure when shadowed by U/Boat.

Further to Admty 1826/21/12/40, 1507/5/2 and 1602/19/2.
(D.A/S.W. 1843/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BALTARA (Broke down 5/3).	If BALTARA is in tow satisfactorily well and good. Otherwise report situation. (C.in C. W.A. 0204/15 to ELSTAN).
HEARTEASE.	Delayed by Asdic dome defect. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0307/15).
HOLLYHOCK.	Unable to sail owing to hull damage (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0307/15).
AUBRIETIA.	Your 1545. Collision damage will prevent me from joining group. (AUBRIETIA 1636/15 to BULLDOG).
SANDENBURGH.	(Dutch 944 tons). Refloated 1815/15. Proceeding to Middlesborough. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1830/15).
SHERWOOD.	(Destroyer). Delayed owing to defects. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1927/15).

War Diary. 15.3.41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Search for BANGKOK.	Request permission to enter U 3 continue search for BANGKOK. (? MARSDALE 0830/15, to F.O.C.N.A.).
A/C Report of Battle Cruisers.	Please interrogate pilot of aircraft as to possibility of German Battle Cruisers sighted by him being dummy ships. The fact that turrets were not trained during encounter gives rise to suspicion. Any further details of ships sighted would be of value. (D.N.I. 1203/15, to Consul, Teneriffe.).
ASAKA MARU.	Your 1917 (to D.N.I.only) S/S ASAKA MARU expected to leave Bilbao 16/3. Destination unknown but it is given to Customs as Yokohama.(Bilbao 1247/15 to Adty.)
Re raiders sighted by MALAYA 8/3.	Your 1900/11. Send Aircrafts crew to Gibraltar first opportunity. S.O.Force H. considers battle cruiser sighted by MALAYA'S aircraft may have been dummy as they declined action and did not train their turrets. Request remarks of pilot in support or otherwise of this theory may be signalled. (F.O.C.N.A. 1234/15 to Consul, Teneriffe.).
State of DUNKERQUE.	S.O.(T) Gibraltar 1746/15.
Germans on board S.S. MARQUES DE COMILLAS.	Spanish S.S. MARQUES DE ?COMILLAS New York 13/3, to Bilbao 15 knots. Reliably reported 130 Germans on board and possible ship may be carrying documents from German Consulate to New York. (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/15 to N.A. Station.)

/Ships.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15. 3. 1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Ships detained by Vichy French.	At Port Lyautey and Casablanca, and intentions of French re: using them (S.O.(i) Gib. 1884/15.). See Lion Copy only.
Naval A/C rescued by CABOIRANNA ESPERANZA.	Airmen provisionally interned by order of British C.G. on instructions from Madrid plane in charge of G.H.Q. Authorities. We have been asked to (corrupt group) make strong protest and demand release. No distinct time granted for repairs by experts. Provisional internment is same procedure as followed with Air Force personnel later liberated who made forced landing on East Coast of Spain recently. Please inform N.A. (A.N.A. Madrid 1838/15, to V.A. Gibraltar.). Your 0938/13, understood Spaniards prepared to release aircraft and crew if necessary arrangements can be made within certain time limit. Legal position is not settled. Precedents in World War. If Spaniards are willing of their own accord to release plane and crew every effort should be made to get them away. We do not accept Spanish analogy between belligerent military aircraft and belligerent warships (V.C.N.S. 2058/15 to F.O.C.N.A.).
MADRID (German.)	Sailed from Las Palmas on 11/12/40. No further information of her movements. (D.D.I.C. 2329/15, to N.S.O.(I) Monte Video.)
ATLAS (German.)	14/3 arrival Gandia (Valencia T.H.I.2400/15). ATLAS.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15. 3. 41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DAGIA. Your 0650/15. No objection to SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA escorting DAGIA due to leave Durban P.M./15, but this is contrary to Adty., 1832/6, and C. in C. S.A. 0001/14. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1025/15, to C. in C. E.I.).

DUNKELD. Overdue shipping my 1006/11 DUNKELD arrived Capetown DALGOMA due Capetown
DALGOMA. 11/3 from U.K. not arrived.

(S.O.(I) Capetown 1034B/15.).

MADRID. S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1839/13/3 is passed to you. Please inform him ship sailed from Las Palmas 11/12/1940.
(S.O.(i) Freetown 1036/15 to Adty.).
It is reported that German ship MADRID is taking a cargo of German merchandise to Uruguay. Vessel last reported sailing Northwards from Las Palmas on 11.12.40.
(D.D.I.C. 2330/15, to C. in C. S.A.
R.A. S.A.D. NEWCASTLE ASTURIAS QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

CILTVAIRA. Latvian ship CILTVAIRA which left Norfolk 8/2, for Rio de Janeiro has not arrived.
(S.O.(i) Freetown 1116/15.).

AINDERBY. Cancel my 1258/14. AINDERBY arrived Freetown 15/2. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1232/15.).

Crew of LECH. Ships at Santos. Special Condor plane left Rio de Janeiro 0630/15 for Para. with 12 members of crew of German LECH probably join NORDERNEY at Para. B one NORDERNEY will probably sail Monday. N.S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C. in C. S.A. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1508/15.).

/My 1508.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15. 3. 41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Crew of LECH. Ships at Santos.

My 1508/15, since crew of LECH left for para have warned SANTOS to keep careful watch over German ships there, since possible move north may be bluff for getting away south. S.O. (I) Freetown pass to C. in C. S.A. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1645/15.).

L.L. Corvettes for Meditn.

"L.L." Corvettes DELPHINIUM, SNAPDRAGON, ERICA and PRIMULA are being sailed for service in Mediterranean. Dates of leaving etc.
6. C's in C. concerned arrange onward passage. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1835/15.).

Orders for SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.

Re C. in C., E.I. 1242 Z/15. Sail SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA as soon as possible to contact and escort DALIA as far as 021 S., and in accordance with route instructions given in C. in C. E.I., 0650/15 and return immediately to Durban on completion of this duty. She will be required to escort FORT BINGER thereafter in company with COMMANDANT DUBOC. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2130 B/15 to N.L.O. Durban.).
Your 1242 Z/15. Have you not received Adty 1832/6? Consider ship can escort both units. See my 2130 B/15 to (?N.L.O.) Durban directing him to sail SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2132 B/15 to C. in C. E.I.).
In view of C.in C., E.I. 1856 Z/15 postpone sailing of SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2355 B/15.).

Mediterranean.

Force Z.

Request report when Force Z. have arrived at Port Said. (1 S.L. 0051/15 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.).

/ILLUSTRIOUS.....

War Diary. 15.3.41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

ILLUSTRIOUS.	Your 0109/11 and my 1403/12. Structural strength considered sufficient for passage except in abnormal conditions. Two aircraft, preferably Walrus, can be stowed on flight deck and operate from deck in wind speed 10 knots or over. Consider A/C can land with controlled landing.(ILLUSTRIOUS 1133/15 to Adty.).
Convoy U.S.9.	Convoy U.S.9. arrived Suez A.M./15. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1201/15.).
Mining of Suez Canal.	Possibility of using seismographs to detect mines.(C. in C. Med. 1545/15.).
Convoy G.A.5.	(11) 1400/11. Ships. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1607/15.).
Air raid on Malta.	Combined services report Malta up to 1600 hours 15/3. All times G.M.T. Of 4 Wellingtons from U.K. 1 failed to arrive. Signalled at 0545 being attacked. Single Ju.88 dropped 4 bombs on Hal Far aerodrome causing no damage or casualties. Part 2. R/C's. Glenn Martin from U.K. reported seeing at 0750 hours a convoy of about 20 M/V's and Naval Units midway between Pantellaria and Cape Bon. Unable to identify ships or give any indication of course or speed owing to clouds and haze. R/C. Trapani. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1655/15.).
Convoy A.G.5.	Arrived Piraeus 1000/15 except MARIT MAERSK delayed by weather. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1930/15.).

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15. 3. 41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterran Contd.

Mining of Suez Canal.	Situation 2030/15. Mines at Km. 28 exploded by S/A sweeper at 0830. Sweeper damaged and towed to Port Said. No casualties. Traffic resumed between Port Said and Geneiffe. Nine Merchant vessels proceeded South of Timsah. ILLUSTRIOUS and ROVER arrived at Lake Timsah. No change in Southern sector. Continued strong wind and bad visibility for diving. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 2041/15.).

East Indies.

CAPETOWN to rejoin patrol.	CAPETOWN after fuelling at Aden is to rejoin patrol so as to arrive there A.M./23. (C. in C. E.I. 0702/15.).
Convoy B.N.22.	ANTENOR is to escort convoy B.N.22. to Aden, leaving Bombay 20/3. (C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/15.).
Contravention of bunkering policy.	C. in C. E.I. 0812Z/15.
Raider Intelligence.	My 1132/13/ Para. One C. Request nature of cargo in BRITISH ADVOCATE which left Abadan on 6/2. This information may serve as a check on reliability of prisoner. (C. in C. E.I. 0820/Z/15 to Adty.)
Nets for Suez Canal.	Further to my 1136/11. (C. in C. E.I. 0830/15.).
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.	Your 1025/15. I do not known the programme of the French ship. Is there time for French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA to do both escorts. (C. in C. E.I. 1242z/15, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.). Cancel my 1242/15 in view of my 1428/15/. (C. in C. E.I. 1856Z/15.).
Operation "Appearance".	Departure GLASGOW, CALEDON, KINGSTON for operation APPEARANCE. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1350Z/15.).

MOST SECRET.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

TAMESIS.	Your 0947/14 concur that ship is not to proceed north of Hong Kong. (C.in C. China, 0439Z/15 to Com. Hong Kong.)
Protection of Shipping.	Your 1837/13. I am now allowing ships of over 4000 tons as far as Shanghai vide my 0329Z/13. (C.in C. China, 0443Z/15).
Sighting of Warship.	S.O.(I) Wellington 2038Z/14. C.in C. N.E.I. States vessel could not repetition not have been TROMP. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1339Z/15).
RAMB 2.	C.in C. N.E.I. reports Italian ship RAMB 2 black hull grey super structure sighted 0930Z/12 position 1° 35' S., 124° 51'E. steering 70°. Source not yet ascertained. Vessel last reported Massawa 21/2. C.in C. E.I. N.B. Melbourne, N.Z.N.B. S.O.(I) Hong Kong S.O.(I) Shanghai informed. (C. of I.S. Far East, 1601Z/15).
DELHI.	Return to Simonstown at best speed preparatory to refit in U.S.A. (V.C.N.S.(F) 2350/15 to DELHI).

America and West Indies.

U/B's in Neutrality Zone.	A.M. 2316/14. Helpful if you could ascertain unofficially what U.S.A. reaction would be if a U/Boat commenced operating in the neutrality zone particularly in that section between 40° North and the Northern limit. (D.O.D.(H) 0030/15 to N.A.Washington).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

THUNDERBOLT.

THUNDERBOLT is to return to Halifax.
(B.S.3. 0743/15).

RAMILLIES.

My 1701/11, arrangements have been made to dock RAMILLIES at St. John N.B. arriving about 17/3. Hope time required for repair will not exceed 14 days.
(B.S.3. 1047/15.)

PUNE.

Following from Yarmouth Radio Begins: Intercepted from PUNE sent in Portuguese 1405 G.M.T. S.O.S. Abandoning ship porition 39° 58'N., 43° 19'W. Static very bad no bearing possible.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1316/15).

S.S. SAN CASIMIRO.
SIMNIA
ATHELFOAM
NEWBROUGH
attacked by raider.

Following has been read from SAN CASIMIRO. QQQQ Merchant ship Raider 39 R 58 N 43 R 19W suspicious accompanied by jamming Q.G.Spark.
(Portishead Radio 1415/15).
NOTE: Passed to C.in C. A.M.I. Halifax W/T for RODNEY as T.O.O. 1655/15.
Passed F.O.S.
Following received begins at 1920 G.M.T. intercepted from Cape Race Radio Station begins: RRRR (?048°) 28'N., 043° 30'W. SIMA shelled 18 (group omitted) 15th ends.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1600/15).Passed F.O.(S)
Following intercepted by Cape Race at 1920 G.M.T. Begins RRRR 040° 28'N., 043° 30'W. SIMA shelled 1815 ends.
Originator probably SIMNIA.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1752/15 to RODNEY, THUNDERBOLT,Force M.)
Reference SAN CASIMIRO Merchant Raider distress signal 1415/15. Detach one Armed M.C. and THUNDERBOLT to search area and protect independently routed ships. List of such ships is in vicinity follows. A.M.C. detached will be addressed as Force M to avoid your breaking W/T silence.
(V.C.N.S. 1737/15 to RODNEY).

/My 1737/15.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

My 1737/15. The following 14 ships of which 10 are tankers are reckoned to be within 150 miles of the position of the attack. All vessels outward bound from U.K.
(V.C.N.S.1759/15 to RODNEY, THUNDERBOLT, Force M).
To C.O.A.C. Begins: 2038 G.M.T. RRRR intercepted from Cape Race Radio ATHELFOAM 4200 N., 4325W being shelled Ends.
(Halifax, N.S. T.H.I. 1810/15, C.in C. A.W.I. 2022/15, to RODNEY, THUNDERBOLT, C.in C. S.A. Force M, X, Ships etc. A.W.I.) Received 0201/16.
The following has been read. RRRR 40 R 28 N., 43 R 30 W. SIMNIA shelled no other details. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1842/15). Passed F.O.(S).
(1) Reference SAN CASIMIRO distress message. Merchant raider reported in position 39° 58'N., 43° 19'W at 1415/15 may now be retiring towards central area.
(2) If near enough you may at your discretion operate against raider instead of proceeding to area ordered.
(3) Arrival at Freetown must not repetition not be delayed.
(V.C.N.S. 1903/25 to Force X, THUNDERBOLT). Merchant ship raider reported by S.S. SAN CASIMIRO in 39° 58 N., 43° 19'W. at 1415/15.
(D.D.I.C. 1925/15 to C.in C. H.F. Ships and Authorities A.W.I. N.A. W.A. S.A.)
NOTE: CASIMIRO's signal was re broadcast to all ships and authorities on receipt. Ref: Admty(1157/15).
(?1737/15 intended) have at present no serviceable ships in harbour to send to this (?ship). (? SALOPIAN) could be spared if necessary. KING GEORGE V could be ready to sail tomorrow but would not then be available for H.X.115
(B.S.3. 1941/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.)
Your 0743/15. THUNDERBOLT is to act in accordance with A.M. 1737/15.
(D.D.O.D.(H) 1949/15 to R.A.3.)
Cape Race reports RRRR 2038 G.M.T. ATHELFOAM 4200N., 4325W., being shelled ends. - and further - QQQQ 2040 G.M.T. NEWBROUGH 3900N., 4844W. suspicious vessel closing - ends.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2005/15 Bermuda, 2024/15). Passed F.O.(S).

/Enemy.

MOST SECRET.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Enemy surface Raider in position 40° 28'N., 43° 30'W at 1915 G.M.T./15. (D.D.I.C. 2106/15 to All British Merchant Ships in Areas 1 & 7.)
Following intercepted from S.S. SIMNA Begins: RRRR 40° 28'N., 43° 30'W. SIMNA shelled. Ends.
(D.D.I.C. 2157/15 to C.in C. H.F. Ships and Authorities A.W.I., W.A., N.A., S.A., THUNDERBOLT, Force X, Force M.).
In view of warship raider report in my 2157/15 Force M and THUNDERBOLT are to R/V as ordered by Force M and operate in company.
(V.C.N.S. 2210/15 to Force M, THUNDERBOLT).
Cape Race reports - 2119/15 QQQQ NEWBROUGH 3900 N 4844 W being followed for past two hours by four masted ship now closing rapidly - Ends.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 2215/15).

KING GEORGE V. — Halifax arrival 15/3. KING GEORGE V. (S.O.(I) Halifax. 1515/15).

Transport of R.C.A.F. personnel. — N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1752/15 see Operations Volume.

Patrol of focal area. — In view of the concentration of West bound shipping passing between points Z and A, request you will consider detailing a cruiser to patrol this focal area.

2. It is hoped that circumstances may shortly allow H.M.Gov., to release DIOMEDE from her present commitment.
(V.C.N.S. 2323/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

IXION.	British 10,263 tons, in Convoy H.X.112 SSSS De ZMVI 59.52 N., 16.02 W. chased. (Wick Radio 0829/15, read from Portishead Radio). Course steering 270° 12 knots. * (IXION 0833/15 to All Ships). Submarine last ssen on surface steering to intercept IXION. (IXION 0925/15 to any British Warship). Ship being chased by U/Boat 059° 52'N., 016° 02'W. at 0931 steering east 12 knots. (C.in C. W.A. 0944/15 to VANOC HELIOTROPE, MALLOW, VIOLET, ARABIS).
?	Following has been read. 061° 02'N., 018° 00'W. ship torpedoed. (WALKER 2330/15).

* Being chased by U/Boat.

S. Atlantic. 1408.	A.F. message. Position 11° 10'N., 19° 50'W. (C.in C. S.A. 1408/15).
1528.	About 52°-54° N., 20° W. or further W. Very indefinite. (D.S.558).
1935.	53° - 55° N., 25° W. very indefinite. (Italian) (D.S.558).
2308.	About 61° N., 18° - 20° W. indefinite. (D.S. 558).
2212.	About 48° N., 32° W. very indefinite. (D.S. 558).
1821.	11.40 N., 20.12 W. 300' S.E. of Cape Verde Is. Sighted by H.M.Ship. (D.S. 558).

Submarines Reported.

H.X.112 reported (See 16/3).	An enemy submarine has made a first sighting report of a convoy or importan unit. (D.D.I.C. 2327/15).

/My 2327/15.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

My 2327/15. It is probable that formation reported was H.X.112 or S.C. 24 convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 2340/15).

Submarines Attacked.

By TORRENT.

If you are s atisfied that TORRENTS contact is non-sub request you will discontinue the hunt and instruct RUBY to proceed to Milford Haven.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1150/15).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.3.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Fog still continues on the East Coast and in the Channel and movements are affected. Harwich was closed during most of the forenoon.

Western Channel Patrol.

KELLY, KELVIN and JACKAL patrolled last night between the longitudes of Wolf Rock and Eddystone, to cover shipping sailing westward from Plymouth.

HIPPER Cruiser.

Air R/C today showed that the HIPPER cruiser had left Brest.

U-Boat Campaign. 3 U-Boats sunk in Attack on H.X. 112 4 ships Torpedoed.

SS VENETIA, FERN, FRANCHE COMTE and J.B. WHITE in Convoy H.X. 112, and apparently a fifth ship also, SS KORSHAMN were torpedoed today on the Northern Approach route. WALKER and VANOC, escorting the convoy, sank 2 or 3 submarines, U 99, U 100 and probably U 29. VANOC is holed forward from ramming one of the submarines. It was stated by survivors that 5 U-Boats were operating together.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.3.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

27 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Lorient last night.

Fog caused the majority of patrols today to be cancelled, though patrols were flown S.W. of the Faeroes, north of the Shetlands and by Iceland aircraft in Denmark Strait. A daylight patrol was flown in the Bay of Biscay for the HIPPER class cruiser and a coastwise patrol in the afternoon from Brest to La Rochelle.

Enemy Air Activity

A/S trawler LADY LILIAN was bombed and sunk today in the N.W.Approaches, H.M. Trawler KING SOL and ST APOLLO were in company with LADY LILIAN, and the former was damaged.

Mining

Operation
B.S. 51.

This operation has been postponed on account of fog.

Norwegian SS ELENA E was mined off Lundy Island early this morning.
Mines were detonated today in the Humber.

The Clyde was opened to navigation for outward traffic with sweepers ahead from 1300/16. Part of Birkenhead Docks was reopened. The river will be closed to traffic between 0730 and 1200 daily for sweeping. A mine which exploded today in Princes Dock has permanently put one berth out of action and prevents flooding all 3 docks at Goran.
Liverpool was opened at 1400 until ½ hour after sunset and is to be reopened daily at 1100 until ½ hour after sunset.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.3.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

MALAYA, escorting Convoy S.L. 68 reports that a ship was sunk this afternoon, presumably torpedoed, in 13° 12' N., 20° 24' W., (S.W. of the Cape Verde Is.) 10 miles west of the convoy.

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Malta

About 12 enemy aircraft attacked Malta last night, Searchlights were doused and the raiders had difficulty in locating targets. Most of the bombs fell in the sea and no damage or casualties occurred.

F.A.A. attack Valona

3 F.A.A. Swordfish last night attacked shipping in Valona harbour with torpedoes Results were not observed.

East Indies

Operation "Appearance"

Berbera was recaptured this morning by a combined operation by the Navy, Army and Air Force.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.3.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

ATHELFOAM
and
NEWBURGH
DEMETERTON
SOUTHGATE
CHILEAN REEFER
Attacked

Further reports of raider activities continued to come in today.
At 0201 a message was received at the Admiralty that the tanker ATHELFOAM (outward bound in ballast) was being shelled by a warship at 2038/15 G.M.T. in 42° N., 43° 25' W., (about 90 miles north of SIMNIA's position) and at 0514 a message came in that at 2040 SS NEWBROUGH reported a merchant ship raider closing her in position 39° N., 48° 44' W.

As it seemed possible the attacks on SIMNIA (15/2) and ATHELFOAM were carried out by SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU Force M was ordered to return to her convoy, THUNDERBOLT continuing to search.
KING GEORGE V which had arrived at Halifax at 1515/15 was ordered to fuel and proceed with all despatch to the area concerned, and TALISMAN, en route to Halifax, was also ordered to operate to the limit of her endurance before continuing her passage. KING GEORGE V left Halifax at 1225/16 (local time)
Two aircraft left Newfoundland at 1045 G.M.T. to sweep ahead of convoys H.X. 114 and S.C. 25.

At 2116 a warship raider signal timed 1855 was received, from DEMETERTON in 45° 58' N., 44° W. The signal was jammed by the raider. At 1800Z SOUTHGATE made a similar signal from 46° 19' N., 45° 48' W
A warship raider signal timed 1539 G.M.T. details unreadable owing to jamming, was received at the Admiralty at 1953.
CHILEAN REEFER reported being shelled by a warship raider at 2020 in 46° 13' N., 44° 45' W.

/At 2129Z.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.3.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies-Contd.

At 2129Z RODNEY reported an unknown vessel 15 miles off steering 40° in 46° 16' N., 8' W. The vessel which was almost certainly a warship disappeared in the darkness, as did also another large ship, presumed to be a tanker. RODNEY then rejoined Convoy H.X. 114, picking up the Captain and another officer of the CHILEAN RESIVER who stated that their attacker was the GNEISENAU and that she was observed signalling to another vessel, probably the tanker.

MOST SECRET.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TROUBADOUR.
EVADNE.

Intend as a temporary expedient to augment South Irish Sea escorts by employing TROUBADOUR and EVADNE based on Hlyhead. Request you report when EVADNE will be available.
(C.in C. W.A. 1821/16 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Iceland Base facilities.

Your 1931/11. Re conference to be held.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1908/16 to F.O.I.C.Iceland).

Oerlikon Guns in Wairs ~~W.A/R.S.~~ and HUNT-class destroyers.

Recent reports of engagements with "E" boats shew the imperative necessity for ahead fire and the indication given in C.A.F.O. that there is likely to be delay in supplying Oerlikon guns to "Hunt" class Destroyers is viewed with grave concern. Remarks.

Request favourable consideration to the following proposals for fitting both HUNT and WAIRS employed on East Coast Convoy Duty.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2305/16).

Movements.

HOOD.

HOOD screened by 3 destroyers is.to sail passing May Island at 2000/18 speed of advance 18 knots and Dunnet Head at 0630/19 to carry out full power trials and firing to West of Orkneys. On completion HOOD is to enter Scapa for degaussing range proceeding to berth on completion.
(F.O.C. 1st B.S. 1015/16 to HOOD).

UNDAUNTED.
STURGEON.

A. UNDAUNTED is to leave Zone C.3. after dark 18th and return to base as routed by Captain (S) 9.

B. STURGEON is to proceed into Zone C.4. after dark 17th. thence into Zone C.3. after dark 18th thence operating in Zones C.1 and C.2. from 20th to 22nd. Leave patrol after dark/22nd and return to base as routed by Captain (S).6.
(F.O.S. 1144/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

QUORN.	My position 8 C Buoy proceeding South by Q.Z.S. 172. (QUORN 1315/16). Return Harwich. (C.in C. Nore, 1411/16 to QUORN).
D.5.	Cancel my 1928 and 1933. Keep steam at one hour's notice. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2010/16 to D.5.)
REGISTAN.	Your 1416/12. Not decyphered until today. Insufficient oil to reach Clyde reference my 1830/11. Request instructions. (REGISTAN 1400/16 to F.O.C.N.P.)
Portsmouth.	My 1503/16. All movements postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1757/16).
O.24. WHITE BEAR.	WHITE BEAR unable to proceed owing to fog. Anchor as convenient and proceed to Methil when fog clears. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1821/16 to O.24.)

Operations.

Rosemary and Lousy Banks. A/S Patrol.	WINDERMERE sailed to relieve WASTWATER and to patrol in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1831/9. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0803/16).
NELSON NIGERIA.	NELSON and NIGERIA will be operating to southward of Iceland until 0900Z/17 and then will patrol southward Iceland preparatory to covering operation S.N.69 (C.in C. H.F. 0948Z/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Patrol O.

Patrol O by 21st D.F. tonight is cancelled. WORCESTER and WHITSHED are to remain outside Harwich for the present. Instructions for the night will be signalled to them according to circumstances.
(C.in C. Nore, 1229/16).

Western Channel Patrol.

Arrived 1100 KELLY, 1135 KELVIN, 1240 JACKAL.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1320/16).

Interception of M/V.

One large M.V. reported ten degrees North of Ile De Vierge at 1610 course East. KELLY and JACKAL proceed to intercept off Cape De La Hague, returning to Plymouth by 0900.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1933/16 to D.5.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 1848/15. Patrol R 2 and R 1 cannot take off before daylight owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0330/16).
My 1848/15. Patrol R One is not being flown.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1109/16).
2 Battle Aircraft left at 1116 to carry out patrol Denmark Straits.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1120/16).
Aircraft on weather flight from Trondheim this afternoon has covered area to 63° 30'N., 10° W. and extended flight to 64° 30'N., 15° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1145/16).

/Your 2100/4.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols. (Contd.)

Your 2100/4. Carry out further patrol 17/3 as well as 16/3.
(War Office 163 0/15 to G.O.C.Iceland).
My 1120/16. Aircraft returned having completed patrol between 1300 and 1500. Nothing to report.
(F.O.Iceland, 1828/16).
Your 56412 (M.O.8) of 14/3. Patrol carried out over Denmark Strait today despite bad weather conditions. Details. Will carry out further patrol tomorrow if weather permits but gale blowing and visibility poor at present.
(G.O.C. Iceland Force, 2025/16).
X.3370 A.35 16/3. Following area of Denmark Straits operationally patrolled today by 2 Battle Aircraft.
Patrols of 6 hours and 4 hours respectively one machine and Akureyri.
(98 Squadron, 2110/16 to 18 Group).

Cover for SALAMANDER.

Cover arranged until arrival at Scapa. Code word ADAPT.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0420/16 to SALAMANDER).

Iceland. Functions of Hudson A/C.

Your 1053/10. Some information is contained in Air Ministry 1145/11 and 1930/11 to G.O.C. Iceland. Air Ministry are making a further signal covering general policy.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1243/16 to F.O.I.C.Iceland

Enemy Air Activity.

F.W. Aircraft.

1 A/C course 360° height 1000 ft. Position 26 miles 201° 55° N., 12° W.
(BULLDOG 0830/16).

KING SOL.

SOS 54° 30'N., 12° 15' W. help OBA.
(KING SOL 0918/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Portland. Air Raid, 14/3.	Air raid on night of 14/3 resulted in considerable amount of broken glass at ATTACK and some damage to plaster work of Dormer windows. (O.C.W. Portland, 1015/16).
Glasgow Area. Air Raid Night 14/15. Oil-Tanks damaged. CERVEZA (Motor Boat) damaged.	My 2200/15. The second night of enemy action (14/15 March) extended the damage from five tanks to eighteen as shewn below. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1945/16). Motor Boat CERVEZA of Clyde River Patrol damaged by D.A.Bomb without serious casualty. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2129/16).
Manchester Air Raid on Night 11/12.	STELLA (Swedish 1189 tons) Sunk. Following 9 ships damaged. HARDWICKE GRANGE (British 9005 tons). CORDILLERA (British 6865 tons). CLIFTON HALL (British 5063 tons). QUEEN MAUD (British 4976 tons). CONTRACTOR (British 6004 tons). NAVELIST (British 6133 tons). MARKHOR (British 7917 tons). SILVERELM (British 4351 tons). LONDON II (British 1260 tons). (D.C.L. 16/3).
Liverpool. Air Raid on Night 14/15.	Following ships damaged. MINEGARTH (Tug) SCOTTISH CHIEF (British 7006 tons). ORWELL (British 7920 tons). (D.C.L. 16/3).

Mining.

ELNA E.	(Norwegian 1174 tons). C.G.Bude reports Cardiff to Plymouth. Struck mine N. of Ludy at 0100. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1021/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

My 1021/16. ELNA E. struck mine approx. 0105/16 S.W. Lundy Island 18 miles approx. 7 to 8 miles from shore. Crew landed at Crackington Haven, Master and 16 men including 2 gunners. Steward missing.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1338/16).

SAMLANES.
(Mined 13/3).

My 1818/13 and 1220/14. Belgian trawler picked up raft marked SAMLANES in 49° 55'N., 5° 31'W. on 15/3.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1022/16).

B.S.51.

Operation B.S.51 has been postponed owing to fog. Am anchored in vicinity of 20 C Buoy.
(TEVIOT BANK 1236/16).

Clyde.

My 0429/15/3. River Clyde open to navigation for outward traffic with Sweepers ahead from 1300/16.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1301/16).

Birkenhead.

My 1130/15. Birkenhead Docks opened for essential traffic only except western portion of west float.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1321/16).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool opened until half an hour after sunset. Intend reopening each day at 1100 until half an hour after sunset until further notice.

Vessels may continue to enter QZS 211 at daylight and adjust speed so as not to arrive at Rock Light before 1100.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1400/16.)

Clyde.

River will remain open until further notice being closed to traffic between 0730 and noon daily for sweeping.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1656/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Humber. 2 Mines detonated.	Two mines detonated this afternoon by SA/LL Trawler near 59 buoy. (F.O.Humber, 1934/16).
Operation GU.	Particulars. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2033/16). See Operations Volume.
Clyde Air Raid of Night 14/15. WARRIOR (Tug) damaged.	My 2200/15 and my 1945/16. 1 Number of mines landed in river now proved to be nine as follows. 2. River has been continuously swept by S.A. and L.L. Drifters. River has been opened to traffic and HERMIONE and SUTLEJ and about five merchant ships passed down to Tail of Bank. ASSINIBOINE and a cattle ship brought up river. 3. On 15/3 as a result of a mine explosion tug WARRIOR belonging to Messrs. Steel and Rennie was damaged and later beached at Renfrew, without serious casualties. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2129/16).
HERPORT (Mined 14/3)	Am transferring 11 British male survivors from Steamship HERPORT to VERSATILE A.M. tomorrow Monday for passage to Sheerness. None is injured. (EGLINTON, 2141/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface Craft off Beachy Head.

There are indications of three or more surface craft in 091° Beachy Head 14½ miles, steering 264° 7 knots at 2359. (V.A.Dover, 0019/16 to S.O. 1st M/S F.)

M/V off Ile Vierge.

P.R.U. Preliminary report states one large merchant vessel 10 miles, North of Ile Vierge course East at 1610. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1752/16).

Denmark. S/M's and T/B's and Shipbuilding. Norway - TARONGA.

(3). Norway. My telegram 1730/28/2. German crew embarked TARONGA at Akers yard 2/3. TARONGA reported expecting to leave for Larvik 3/3 B.2. (N.A.Stockholm, 1841/15).

Para.3. TARONGA which has been fitted out as an A.M.C. was reported to be still at Oslo on 12/3 having guns mounted.
N.I.D.I. 16.3.1941.

Suspicious Vessel.

Suspicious vessel in sight 55° N., 6° W. (NOTTS COUNTY, Recd. 2200/16).

Miscellaneous.

Harwich.

Port of Harwich closed due to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0801/16).
Cancel my 0801.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1145/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

A/A Defence, Loch Ewe.

Your 2009/12. (To assist in A.A. defence of shipping in Loch Ewe arrange for 4 merchant ships present any one time to act as A/A guardships at immediate notice.) Necessary action has been taken.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1528/16 to C.in C. W.A.)

Zigzagging and Evasive steering.

Proposed to make the following signals:- From Admiralty. Only convoys of over 11 knots and independently sailed ships are to zig-zag. B.R.248 contains a choice of 42 different zig-zag diagrams and instructions as to when each zig-zag is suitable.

2. Evasive steering may be carried out by convoys by night or by day, in waters where enemy submarines may be expected, subject to following instructions.

3. When to westward of 12° W. if evasive steering is not being employed all convoys in a submarine danger zone are to make a drastic alteration of course at dusk to displace the convoy laterally some 20 miles.

4. When a warship escort is present it is the responsibility of the S.O. of escort to decide whether or not convoy is to carry out evasive steering subject to Commodore's agreement that decision is compatible with the safe handling of the convoy in prevailing conditions.

5. Admty. 1907/28/9/40 and 1734/9/10 /40 and C.B. 4100 Sect. F. Part III are cancelled.

Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 2332/16 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

Iceland Ferry Service.

Admiralty's 1616/12.
NEWARK and WELLS are allocated to 17th Division, under the Command of R.A.M. who will be required to provide escorts for the Iceland Ferry Service.

2. Re working up.

3. Propose that first Ferry Service to Iceland will be undertaken by ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN leaving the Clyde on 2/4.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1148/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys. Iceland Ferry Service.

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(A.C.N.S.(H) 1148/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FISHER QUEEN.	(Patrol Drifter) Aground on Kerrera opposite Dunollie Light. Request urgent assistance. (Salvage) (N.O.I.C. Oban, 0730/16).
BALTARA (Broke down 5/3).	Passing Inistrahull. Expect to arrive Rothesay Bay at Daylight to-morrow. BALTARA has crew aboard and also all lifeboats. No list, draught 14 by 17 feet. (THAMES 0918/16).
MILTRAP.	(British 320 tons). Aground at Fifeness in thick fog. Hopes to refloat at high water 1730 today. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1011/16).
CAMELIA.	(Corvette) arrived with A/S defects which have been taken in hand. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1414/16).
M.L.123.	M.L.123 badly damaged in collision. (R.A.C.F. 1602/16).
ANGLE.	(A/S Trawler). Sailed tug TENACITY from Campbeltown to assistANGLE in tow of KING SOL in 54° 19'N., 12° W. at 1400 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1636/16).
LORNASTON.	(British 4934 tons). Returned Oban having been in collision. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1915/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

A/C at Teneriffe.

Admty. 2058/15 and my 1234/15. Aircraft should be embarked in British ship at first opportunity.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 0320/16, to Consul, Teneriffe).
U.S. of S. for For. Aff. last night who promised to order release of crew but stated on advice of legal advisers plane would be interned, citing a Dutch precedent.
Minister will consult Embassy legal adviser.
(A.N.A., Madrid, 1242/16, to F.O.C.N.A.).

MADRAS CITY, suspicious ship.

Your 1725/15. (Sent W.R. requesting check and repeat of reference quoted.) Reference in my 1400/14 (Report from Master of MADRAS CITY re challenge made to her) should have been to Admiralty's 1523/12. (Requesting investigation into non recognition by ships when challenged).
(N.C.S.O. Lagos, 0915/16, to Admty.).

ASAKA MARU.

A.T. 2354/13. ASAKA MARU now expected to leave Bilbao 16/3. Destination unknown but given as Yokohama. (D.O.D.(F) 1227/16 to N.A. Stn.).
Japanese ship ASAKA leaves Bilbao (Portugalete) 16/3 passing through following positions. Ship is not to be interfered with.
(Description) (F.O.(S) 1551/16, 1552/16 to OTUS).

**PANDORA
OLYMPUS
OTUS**

Position of submarines at 1200/17 PANDORA with O.C.55 OLYMPUS with H.C.56, OTUS 040° N. 010° 45' W. proceeding through 038° 20' N. 010° 45' W. and 036° 40' N. 009° 30' W. to Gibraltar, may be on the surface.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1243/16).

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1235/16 French Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE escorting 2 French Merchant ships FELIX HENRI light and CAPITAINE PRIEUR laden passing eastbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1515/16).

Enemy Unit.

D/F at 1410/16 G.M.T. (Bearings).
Traffic 36 groups of 4 letter code, German T.O.O. 1546 (F.O.C.N.A. 1940/16, to N.A.Stn.)

OTUS.

P. c. and s. 039° 50' N. 010° 13' W. 194° until arrival position E then as necessary to arrive position F at 0700/18.
(OTUS, 2359/16, to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DELHI — In view of Admty. 2350/15 submit for early decision that Adty. 111/27/11/40 be reconsidered. Suggest port propellors now be changed at Simonstown, etc. (DELHI, 0952/16, to Admty.)

ISIS
ENCOUNTER — Simonstown departure 1000/16 ISIS and ENCOUNTER for Durban. E.T.A. 0800/18. Onward route from Durban will be in accordance with C.in C. East Indies 1144Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1003/16, to Admty. etc.)

ELENI — Overdue shipping, my 0928/14, Greek ship ELENI arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1035/16).

MADRID — German, ungraded report received that MADRID, which left Las Palmas on 11/12, is expected in Uruguay with German merchandise. (D.S. 558).

S.L.68. — My 0522/16 and Admty. 1050/16. Three Corvettes will remain with SL 68 till p.m. /18. Endeavour is being made to arrange A/S escort by Sunderlands which arrive Bathurst 17/3 while convoy is within range. (C.in C. S.A., 1335N/16, to Admty.).

Fuel at Bathurst. — My 1335/16. Situation emphasises importance of fuel at Bathurst. My 2355/18/2 refers. Lighters at St. Vincent hold 240 tons only pending erection of tank referred to in Admty. 1653/13, which will take time. Consider it important that arrangement be made at Bathurst, either by (A) three 420 ton lighters from St. Vincent or (B) small tanker of about 2000 ton capacity. (C.in C. S.A. 1441/16, to Admty.).

U-Boat Activity. — U/B sighted by MALAYA, and ship sunk in 13.12 N., 20.24 W. (See U-Boat Campaign).

REPULSE, FURIOUS at Freetown. — Arrivals 1600/16, REPULSE, FURIOUS, FOXHOUND, and DUNCAN. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1647/16).

/ Routes and dates for EMPIRE SONG, ROCHESTER CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH ALMKERK. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.3.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Routes and dates for EMPIRE SONG, ROCHESTER CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH, ALMKERK.

N.C.S.O. Capetown 1707/14. Your 1318/11 was received at Freetown and was subsequently passed when N.C.S.O. Capetown reported non-receipt. Investigation at Freetown shows your 1818/27/1 through error was not passed to Capetown. It has now been passed. (C.in C. S.A. 2104/16 to Adty.).

W.S.6.

My 0201/26/2. Estimated fuel requirements for separate ships of W.S.6 at Capetown and Durban are as follows (D.S.T., 2118/16 to N.O.I.C.'s).

A/C Lost from FORMIDABLE.

Brit. V. Consul, Bissau, Portguese Guinea, in letter 7/3 reports two Greek subjects informed him British plane supposed to be from an aircraft made a forced landing near Coba some six weeks ago. Crew of two were taken to Konakri and then sent to Dakar.
Plane was shipped to Dakar by motor vessel EDEA on 9/2 (Ends.).
Appears possible that A/C referred to is Fulmar N 1914 lost by FORMIDABLE on 4/1 in vicinity of position 009° 44' N. 016° 20' W. S.O. Force K, R. of P. No. 27/k 682 31/1 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 2345N/16, to Admty.).

Mediterranean.

Yugoslavia.

At a moment when Yugo Slav action carries so much I would like to stress their fear of isolation. Any Naval action by mines torpedoes or surface craft which would remove obsession that Adriatic is closed to them would, judging locally, have a great effect.
(N.A. Athens, 1110/16, to C.in C. Med.).

Valona shipping attacked.

Operational Summary No. 279 up to 1200 hours 16/3. Night March 14/15. Three Swordfish F.A.A. attacked shipping Valona torpedoes registering one hit. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1134/16).
According to Italian Press, this was the hospital ship PO, with the Contessa Ciano, daughter of Mussolini, on board as a nurse, and ship was sunk (D.S. 559).

/ MARIANNINA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.3.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

MARIANNINA — 1262 tons, has left Cartagena for Barcelona and Genoa. (D.S. 559).

AUDACE 1459 tons,) Reported ready to sail at
PEGLI 1593 tons,) Susa, Tunisia, on 12/3 loaded
VERTUNNO 3159 tons) with phosphates. (D.S. 559).

German CORDELIA, YALOVA — Arrival Istanbul. (Galata, 1146/16).

Canal Mining. — Your 1949/27/2. Para. 1 and 2. Both suggestions are considered impracticable for use in Suez Canal. Investigations are being carried out with automatic sound ranging outfit. (D.T.M. 1208/16 to C.in C. Med.).

Salonika Shipping. — Fully concur in B.N.A. Athens 1105/14. (1305/14) (C.in C. Med., 1437/16).

Malta Air Report. — To 1600 hours 16/3 all times G.M.T.
10.30 to 12.30 Glenn Martin patrolled between Cape Bon and Sicily for shipping information for submarines. Only shipping seen one M/V 4000 tons leaving Linosa heading Lampedusa at 1200.
Night 15/16, about 12 enemy aircraft carried out individual attacks. Raiders had difficulty locating targets. Many bombs released, majority fell in sea. No casualties or damage.
0600/16, about 12 enemy aircraft ME 100 and ME 109 apparently on patrol West of Island. Four Hurricanes up chased attackers off.

Mine explosion. — 15/3. Magnetic mine set off in Grand Harbour by Gozo fishing boat. Casualties three killed, four seriously and three slightly injured, boat total loss. (H.Q., Malta, 1615/16).

UPRIGHT R. of P. — UPRIGHT reports nothing sighted 7/3 to 9/3 in Sector 030° to 090° from Tripoli (Libya). In Sector 320° to 030° Southbound convoy 4 6000 tons merchant ships, escorted 2 Oriani 2 Navigatori and 3 aircraft, sighted 0930/10, 041° probably detected since managed to avoid action rendering attack futile. 1300 same day 2 southbound merchant ships with air escort passed out of range, both convoys Kerkenah position A direct.

/ 1700/12. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

UPRIGHT
R. of P.
(Contd.)

1700/12 smoke of northbound convoy with (?air escort) sighted proceeding A to Lampedusa route. 2020 Northbound convoy two merchant ships and two destroyers A Kerkenah route unsuccessfully attacked. 2000/14 single Northbound merchant ship on A to Lampedusa route.
Destroyer appeared to leave Tripoli (Libya) to R.V. with convoy at dawn.
(Comdr. S.1, 1705/16, to Capt. S.1).

Convoy.

A.N. arrived Piraeus 1000/16.
(N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1800/16).

Oil Supply,
pipe line
Suez to
Port Said.

In view of Vulnerability of Suez Canal and Haifa refinery, an oil pipe line from Suez to Port Said considered essential.
Army preparing to carry out the work.
Request immediate approval.
Ownership of pipe line after War to be a matter for negotiation with Egyptian Government and Canal Company.
(C.in C. Med., 1950/16, to Admty.).

Suez Canal.

Situation 2000/16. Mining situation unchanged. ILLUSTRIOUS and ROVER arrived Great Bitter Lake 4 M.V's transmitted Port Said to Bitter Lake. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1951/16).

Delayed Action
Mines, Malta.

15/3 one mine inside Grand Harbour detonated under Gozo boat which was taking unauthorized short cut between 6 and 6A buoy.
3 killed and one missing.
16/3 one mine near floating dock detonated by Kango hammer in drifter.
Appears these mines had delaying action of about 14 days, as these areas had been swept over by Kango hammer on 13/3 and subsequently with magnetic sweep 14/3.
(V.A. Malta, 2211/16).

TETRARCH

You are required to patrol Adriatic. Details, route. (Capt. S.1, 2205/16, to TETRARCH).

TRUANT.

My 1855/2 (N.T. in W.R.) Endeavour to examine anchorage at Burat on 18/3. If unable to attack shipping by torpedo, advertise your presence by use of gun against shipping or any other military target that can be identified. Gun action should only take place shortly before dark. Leave patrol p.m./18. (route).
(Capt. S.1, 2223/16 to TRUANT).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation "APPEARANCE"	Successful landings carried out East and West of Berbera a.m./16. Some artillery and machine gun opposition during dark hours. This was silenced by moderate bombardment from H.M. Ships. (C.in C. E.I., 0502/16, to Admty. etc.).
Berbera captured.	My 0502/16, re operation "APPEARANCE". At 0900/16 G.M.T. the British Flag again flew over Berbera. (C.in C. E.I., 1150/16, to Admty. etc.). W.D. Note - Berbera was evacuated by the British on 19/8/1940.).
Italian Warships sunk.	From letters captured at Kismayu following warships are said to be sunk (list of 16). Consider information of doubtful reliability. (C.in C. E.I., 0614Z/16) See Summaries Folder.
RAMB II.	3685 tons, reported seen in 01.35 S., 124.05E., steering 70° on 12/3. Ship was previously at Massawa. (D.S. 559).
EMPRESS OF JAPAN CAPETOWN	C.in C. South Atlantic 0239/15 Request EMPRESS OF JAPAN be sailed for Capetown so as to arrive 10/4. CAPETOWN is to escort to vicinity of Mombasa where escort will be changed. 0800Z/16.
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA	Your 2132/15/3 first sentence. Yes, but dates of sailing from Capetown and Durban are not yet known to me. (C.in C. E.I. 0806/16, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
HELGA MOLLER	British ship, left Lourenco Marquest 15/3 for Kilindini. Sustained damage at first reported by explosion, later stated by grounding on Danae Shoal. Now beached Chefine Island. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1200/16 to Admty. etc.).
Raider attacked by CARNARVON CASTLE 5/12/40.	My 1152/14. Following also from Wolff (a) Raider 16 was in action with CARNARVON CASTLE while on way back to Germany. (b) As a result of damage sustained below waterline she returned probably to Kerguelen and undertook repairs lasting six weeks working day and night. (c) Maximum speed in fair weather does not now exceed 18 knots.

/ (D) ...

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

FORREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.).

Raider attacked by CARNARVON CASTLE 5/12/40 (Contd.)

(D) ship unable to face rough sea owing to weight of cement put in forward. Therefore unlikely to attempt return Germany.
(2) Above information volunteered by Wolff leaves sinkings MAIMOA, PORT BRISBANE, NOWSHEAR and PORT WELLINGTON unaccounted for. Considered possible that Raider EDWARD was responsible. No evidence of this.
(3) If so Raider EDWARDS has now left Indian Ocean area as Wolff states only 16 and SCHEER were in Indian Ocean area at time of CANADIAN CRUISER sinking.
(C.in C. E.I., 1432/16).

Air Report, Berbera.

Blenheims, in co-operation with successful military and naval operation which captured Berbera 0620 G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 2116/18).

China.

Suspicious Warship. Dispositions.

C.in C. Netherlands E.I. reports warship sighted 11/3 position 013° 09' S. 123° 30' E. flying Portuguese flag, one funnel 2 masts 2 double turrets forward 2 double turrets aft, clipper bows. Same ship sighted 12/3 Dilli Roads by air patrol. Governor Selanger states no Portuguese warship in vicinity. Hong Kong reports Portuguese Sloop GONCALO VELHO left Macao 15/3.
Special disposition from 14/3. 4 Destroyers, Submarines O 19 and O 20 vicinity of Halmarera. Netherlands Cruisers DE RUYTER and JAVA to vicinity of Amboina, special air reconnaissance vicinity of Timor.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0541Z/16).

Suspicious Ships.

Following reliable report received. At 1000Z/13, 16 large ships in 2 lines sighted between Keppel Island and Vavau burning navigation lights and using Masthead Flash lamps. Course S.S.W. (S.O.I. Wellington, 0329Z/16, to Admty., C.in C. China etc.).
S.O.(I) Wellington 0329/16 Warships assumed to be American. C.in C. Netherlands E.I. informed accordingly.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1710Z/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MADRAS CITY, suspicious warship.

Following report from Master of MADRAS CITY Just before daylight 18/2 challenged by a ship flashing "What ship". He turned away and flashed his signal letters GBPB, challenger thereafter continued flashing "what ship" and he replied GBPB on each occasion until daybreak when warship closed MADRAS CITY and could read name on bows.
Appears possible that warship referred to may have been LACONIA.
3. Request report whether anything is known of this incident. Master of MADRAS CITY appears to have acted correctly.
(D.O.D.(M) 0031/16 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

ANTEO)
RAPALLO)

Italian tanker, reported may sail soon from Cartagena, Colombia (D.S. 558).

VOLTAIRE.

My 1801/13 VOLTAIRE returned to harbour with fractured main steam pipe from No.6 boiler. Expect ship to sail 0900Q/18. (B.S. 3 1156/16 to C.in C. S.A.).

Ice Routes.

Your 1933/16/1. Suggestion to enable ships from U.K. bound for Halifax to avoid field ice by passing South of Sable Island. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1259/16, to Admty.).

T.C.10.

Your 1043/12 and 1843/14 Beatty informed that in the circumstances it is undesirable to dock in a U.S. Port.
Desired that ship be stored for voyage of two months after T.C.10 for 2000 all ranks and crew. (D.S.T., 1513/16, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

CALIFORNIA

F.O.C. N.P.'s 2224/15, ocean escort for H.X.115, CALIFORNIA who has been ordered to leave convoy in 025° W. and to proceed to Reykjavik reporting E.T.A. when well clear of convoy. Desirable CALIFORNIA visit Iceland to disembark provisions. Ship would be available for patrol if CIRCASSIA is delayed and for conveyance of any personnel awaiting passage to Halifax.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1642/16, to Admty.).

PRINCE DAVID
DUNEDIN

Your 2323/15 (patrol of focal area) Intended to detail PRINCE DAVID for this duty leaving Bermuda about 20/3. Request early return of DUNEDIN be again considered in view of state of CARADOC's turbines and her unsuitability for operating in bad weather.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1701/16, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Shipping Attacked by Raiders.

Following distress messages were intercepted today:-

1640 — Unknown ship 45.42 N., 45.00 W. Message jammed, reported by ARAKAKA.

1900 — SOUTHGATE 4862. 46.19 N., 45.48 W.

1958 — DEMETERTON, 5251. 45.58 N., 44.00 W.

2120 — CHILEAN REEFER, Danish, 1831. 46.13 N., 44.40 W. Survivors rescued by RODNEY.

These ships were ex-Convoy O.B.294. Position about 300' E. of Newfoundland. (D.O.R. 16/3).

ATHELFOAM — Reports being shelled by Warship Raider in position 42° 00' N. 43° 25' W. at 2038/15 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0308/16 to C.in C. H.F., etc.).
Warship Raider in position 42° 00' N. 43° 25' W. at 2038/15 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0321/16 to All British M.S. in Areas 1 & 7.).

Force M, THUNDERBOLT — Force M is to return to her convoy. THUNDERBOLT is to proceed in search of enemy raiders.
(V.C.N.S. 0322/16 to RODNEY, THUNDERBOLT, Force M.).

KING GEORGE V. — Ref. raider reports from SIMNIA, ATHELFOAM SAN CASIMIRO, NEWBURGH.
KING GEORGE V is to fuel and proceed with all despatch to area concerned.
Further instructions about H.X.118 will follow.
Pass my 1737/15, 1759/15, 1903/15 1911/15 and 0322/16 to KING GEORGE V.
(D.C. for V.C.N.S. 0353/16 to R.A.3.).

Possibly SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU. — My 2157/15 and 0308/16. It is possible that these attacks were carried out by SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.
(D.D.I.C. 0430/16 to C.in C. H.F. etc.).

/ TALISMAN. ....

MOST SECRET.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Shipping Attacked by Raiders. (Contd.)

TALISMAN — Operate against enemy raiders reported in position 40° 28' N. 43° 30' W. at 1842/15 G.M.T. and 42° 00'N. 43°25'W. at 2038/15 G.M.T. to limit of your endurance before proceeding Halifax.
K.G.5 "X" SEVERN (addressed as Force X) THUNDERBOLT also operating in vicinity.
(V.C.N.S. 0510/16 to TALISMAN).

Force X. — My 1903/15.
Steer to northward and operate until further instructions against enemy raiders on assumption that they proceed in S.W. direction.
You will probably return to Halifax instead of proceeding to Freetown.
(V.C.N.S. 0511/16 to Force X)
(Note - This was cancelled by 0012/17).

KING GEORGE V. — Your 0353/16. KING GEORGE V sails 1130 Q/16 ordered to proceed with all despatch to 041° 12' 049° 00' thence with all convenient despatch to 042° 40' 045° 20' subsequently sweeping to South Eastward unless further information is received. KING GEORGE V has been ordered to decode signals under North Atlantic Escort Force delivery group.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1102/16 to Admty.).
Halifax departure KING GEORGE V.
(S.O.I. Halifax, 1225/16).

"R" signal, Cape Race. — Following received from Cape Race, Newfoundland, 2030 G.M.T. G M Z D. R R R R, position unknown interference by believed two raiders sending spark signal jammed continuously. One raider congratulated the other using words Oconnel my best congratulations, other ship replying O K. Bearing on jamming signal 88 approximately, signed officer in charge (Ends.).
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1155/16 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
D/F bearing enemy surface unit heard jamming distress signal at 1539 G.M.T. was approx. 102½° from Cape Race. (R.A.3. 1443/16, to North Atlantic Escort Force, Force X, KING GEORGE V, TALISMAN, RODNEY.)

DEMETERTON, "R" report. — (Begins) RRRR 45.58 N. 44.00 W. DEMETERTON Raider 1855/16. Raider jamming signal (ends.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1512/16, Navycom, Bermuda No T.O.O. Rec. 2251, to Admty.).

/ DEMETERTON ....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Shipping Attacked by Raiders. (Contd.)

DEMETERTON, "R" report. (Contd.) — DEMETERTON made RRRR 045° 58' N. 044° 00' W. at 1855Z/16. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1652/16, to North Atlantic Escort Force, Force X, THUNDERBOLT, TALISMAN, RODNEY, Admiralty).

Rescue work. — Please concert any action possible to save life from ships sunk by raiders S.E. of Newfoundland. (D.O.D.(H) for 1st S.L. 1512/16 to R.A.3, C.in C. A.W.I.). Admty. 1512/16. Request you will undertake this using any available North Atlantic escort force of ships at your discretion including SALOPIAN now being sailed for Halifax. BUXTON ready to proceed 1600Q/17. Consider it unlikely superior forces will be met in areas already attacked. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1611/16, to R.A. 3 B.S.).

SOUTHGATE Report. — Unidentified RRRR and Jamming signal bearing approx. 102½° from Cape Race at 1539Z/16. SOUTHGATE reported RRRR 046° 19' N. 045°48'W. at 1800Z/16. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1521/16, to North Atlantic Escort Force, Force X, THUNDERBOLT, TALISMAN, RODNEY, Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, R A 3 B S.)

Cape Race Report. — 1539 G.M.T. unidentified RRRR signal unreadable, deliberate interference Power Quench Cap. Bearing on Jamming Signal 102 1/2 approximately. No bearing possible on vessel sending RRRR owing interference. No details readable through interference. RRRR sent only once. (O. i/c Cape Race 1542/16, to Admty.).

A/C Reconnaissance. — Following received. 2 aircraft departed from Newfoundland Air Port at 1045 G.M.T./16 to intercept convoy H.X.114 and S.C.25 and sweep ahead to distance 120 miles then return to air port. 1118/16. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1710/16 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

ARAKAKA report. — 045° 42' N. 045° W. at 1540 G.M.T. jamming by raider, true bearing 020° using spark and I C W strength 5. (ARAKAKA, Via Portishead radio, 1630/16 to Admiralty, Admiral Plymouth.).

/Following .....

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Shipping Attacked by Raiders. (Contd.)

ARAKAKA report. (Contd.)

Following message has been received.
RRRR de ZMXA (ARAKAKA). Following intercepted RRRR 46 19 N. 45 48 W. SOUTHGATE closing. (Portishead Radio, 1800/16, to Admty.).
Admiralty, London, Admiral Plymouth No. 10 Group R.A.F. Rudloe. Received 1836 G.M.T. 125000 kc/s de ZMXA (ARAKAKA). RRRR following intercepted RRRR 46.19 N. 45.48 W. SOUTHGATE closing 1800/16. (Portishead Radio, 1826/16).
Following intercepted RRRR (Warship Raider) 45.48 N., 44.1 W. from DEMERTON. (ARAKAKA, 1858/16. T.O.R. 1915/16).
Received 1918 G.M.T. 12500 KCS DE ZMXA (MBGV ARAKAKA) Following intercepted RRRR 45.58 N. 44.0 W. DEMETERTON, Raider. (Portishead Radio, 1858/16, 1915/16, to Admty. etc.).
Following received from DEMETERTON at 1858/16 G.M.T. RRRR 45° 58' N. 44° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2056/16 to C.in C. H.F. etc.).

SOUTHGATE

Following received from SOUTHGATE at 1800/16 G.M.T. RRRR 46° 19' N. 45° 48' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2027/16 to C.in C. H.F., etc.).

PRESIDENTE TERRA report.

Following received from Canso radio (begins). Ref. jamming RRRR signal 2028 G.M.T. by PRESIDENTE TERRA at Cape Race, bearing from Canso 79½, signed radio station (ends).
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2040/16, to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty.).

CHILIAN REEFER.

Following intercepted RRRR 46° 13' N. 44.45'W. CHILEAN REEFER shelled 2020/16. (ARAKAKA, 2055/16).
Following received from CHILEAN REEFER, RRRR 46° 13' N. 44° 40' W. at 2020 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 2221/16 to C.in C. H.F. etc.).

RODNEY report.

One unknown vessel bearing 125° distance 15 miles course 040° position 46° 16' N., 08' W., based on a fix at 1500. (RODNEY, 2129Z/16, to Louisberg, Nova Scotia).
RODNEY was escorting Convoy H.X.114 ROYAL SOVEREIGN, returning to Halifax from H.X.113, was with H.X.114 during the absence of RODNEY chasing enemy (D.O.R. 16/3).

/ My 2129Z/16. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.3.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Shipping attacked by Raiders. (Contd.)

RODNEY report (Contd.) My 2129Z/16. Enemy almost certainly warship disappeared to north eastward in darkness. One large vessel presumed tanker also seen but disappeared during chase. Am rejoining HX 114. (RODNEY, 2159/16, to F.O. (S), Admiralty.).

KING GEORGE V. My 2027/16 and 2056/16. Act in accordance with latest reports of raiders. (1st S.L. 2157/16 to KING GEORGE V).

A/C Search. Two aircraft proceeded 118° true from base 390 miles away. 1415 G.M.T., Tanker sighted 045° 50' N. 046° 20' W. 031° true, 10 knots, also A.M.C. 6000 tons bearing same course. A.M.C. asked for convoy position but convoy had not been located. It reported a ship being shelled no position given. A/C commenced square search. Cruiser 4000 tons one funnel black Orange superstructure sighted at 1545 G.M.T. position 046° 45' N. 045° 12' W., course 230° true, 8 knots. 1628 G.M.T. convoy 42 ships sighted 046° 04' N. 046° 12' W. 031° true, NELSON class escorting. A/C then proceeded on parallel track search on bearing 031° true to distance 80 miles. Setting course base due to fog ridge. No enemy ship sighted. 2100 G.M.T./16. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2234/16).

Cape Race Report. The following has been received from Cape Race (Begins) 2140 G.M.T. again recognised raider signals bearing Cape Race 86 approximately signal Hill 100. This undoubtedly same raider that caused interference previously. Using Quench Gap also I C W very powerful sending serious of fake messages usually begins N R one C K 19 Master CUBA then series of dashes repeated many times. No R R R R signals heard at 2140 G.M.T. 2345/16. (ends.). (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2235/16, to C.in C. A.W.I.).

CHILEAN REEFER survivors rescued by RODNEY. My 2129z. Captain and Chief of CHILEAN REEFER picked up with 24 survivors, both stating quite clearly enemy warship was GNEISENAU. Also state she altered course to south-eastward after inital retirement to N.E. Ship was observed by survivors signalling with red and green lights in front bridge to another vessel thought to be tanker referred to in my 2154z. (RODNEY, 2355Z/16, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Fiji.	Ships bound for any port in Fiji are to be informed that they must first call at the Examination Area at Suva for identification and necessary orders. (D.T.D. 1147/16).
Suspicious Ships.	S.O.I., Wellington, 0329Z/16. See China.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Following 4 ships of Convoy H.X.112. reported torpedoed between 2200 and 2359/16, about 240 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis. (D.S.559.).

VENETIA. British tanker 5728 tons. Sunk.

FERM. Norwegian tanker 6593 tons. Still afloat. British charter.

FRANCHE COMTE. British tanker. 9314 tons. Still afloat.

J.B.WHITE. British 6869 tons. Sunk.

H.X.112. My 2326. 3rd Ship torpedoed at 2359. (WALKER, 0002/16, to Admty.).

SARPEDON. Following has been read: SSSS de YMTA Submarine Raider 55. 18 N., 6.00 W. (SARPEDON, 0020/16.).
Following has been read. SSSS de MKAY. Ref. my 0020/16. Sighted S/M on surface 55 18 N., 6-00 W., which submerged quickly. (SARPEDON, 0117/16.).

Ship of S.L.68. Ship sunk in position 013° 12' N., 020° 24' W., 10 miles west of convoy, presumably torpedoed. (MALAYA, 1601/16, to C. in C. S.A.).

? Ship of Convoy torpedoed in position 060° 59' N., 012° 36' W. (SARDONYX, 2205/16, to Admty.).
Ship torpedoed position 061° 11' N., 12° 19' W. (WALKER, 2210/16, to Admty.).
My 2210 16th. 2nd ship torpedoed at 2324. (WALKER, 2326/16 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2313/15. On 5660 kc/s at 2213 G.M.T. German U/B reported convoy or naval units, possibly H.G. 56. (Bearings).
(D.D.I.C. 0002/16 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. etc.).
At 2213 G.M.T. German U-Boat reported convoy or Naval units possibly H.G. 56.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0153/16 to Capt. D.8).
My 0002/16.
Further bearings give alternative positions in vicinity of H.G. 56 and S.E. of Cape Verde Islands.
U/B made further reporting signal at 0118/G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0438/16).
Your 0438/16. Submarine sighted on surface by MALAYA approx. position 011° 40' N. 020° 12' W. at 1821/15.
(C.in C. S.A., 0522/16, to Admty.).
My 0002/16 and 0438/16.
Further signal at 0907/16 G.M.T. indicates that U/B may be shadowing either H.G.56 or SL.68.
(D.D.I.C. 1050/16 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. etc.).

0015. Sight of U boat four miles S.E. of Fair Isle course N.E. at 0015. Graded C.3.
(A.C.O.S. 0043/16).

2330/15. Admty. message A.F. Position 61° 02' N; 18° W. at 2230/15 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0201/16 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).

0315/15. My 2340/15. D/F at 0315/15 indicate that convoy HX 112 is still being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C. 0437/16 to WINCHELSEA, WALKER, H.Q.C.C. etc.).

1122. D/F indicates U/B may be in your vicinity at 1122/16. (D.D.I.C. 1259/16 to SHEFFIELD, FOLKESTONE, C.in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.).
Cancel my 1259/16. (D.D.I.C. 1438/16 to FOLKESTONE).
D/F gave indications of a U/B in your vicinity at 1122/16. (D.D.I.C. 1437/16 to ARETHUSA and SCARBOROUGH)

/ 0218. ....

War Diary. 16.3.1941. Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

0218. About 300 miles S.E. of Cape Verde Is. Very indefinite. (D.S. 558).

0314. About 53° N., W. of 20° W. Indefinite (D.S.558).

0315) 0506) About 61° N., 16° W. Indefinite (D.S. 558).

0020. 55.18 N., 6° W., reported by unknown ship, B.S. (D.S. 558).

0015. 4' S.E. of Fair Isle, co. N.E. graded C.3. (D.S.558).

1639. 61° - 62° N., 16° W., indefinite (D.S. 559).

1032. 59.40 N., 15.30 W., indefinite. (D.S. 559).

2125. 55° N., W. of 20° W. very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 559).

2040. Between Shetland and Faroes. (D.S. 559).

Submarines Attacked.

1900. Submarine sighted on surface. (WALKER, 1900/16, to Admty.). Submarine sighted on the surface. My p.c.and s. 061° 16' N. 012° 56' W. 086° 8 knots. (WALKER, 1920/16 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E Boats.

Seven E boats were sighted by aircraft at 1655 to-day in 52° 28' N. 5° 45' E, proceeding west at full speed in formation. (Re. night engagements with E boats see 18/3).

British Air Activity.

Coastal Command carried out no operations last night on account of the weather.

watch for German battle cruisers

Aircraft patrol to-day in the Denmark Strait was cancelled on account of weather. Special patrols were flown between the Faroes and Iceland.

21 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the Deutsche Shipbuilding Yard at Bremen last night.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

It is reported that the aircraft which attacked Convoy C.W. 28 in the Straits of Dover during the night 9/10 March approached from the English coast, burning navigation lights.

TEVIOT BANK and escort were attacked this afternoon off the Tyne on return from Operation B.S. 51. No damage is reported.

A/S Yacht MOLLUSK was bombed and sunk this afternoon off Blyth.

Convoy F.N. 34 was attacked off Sheringham this afternoon and S.S. CORMEAD was damaged.

Convoy F.N. 33 was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon off Harwich.

Norwegian S.S. EINA JARL was sunk at 2050 today in the N.W. Approaches by aerial torpedo.

Four waterborne balloons were shot down to-day at Dover.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations B.S. 51.	TEVIOT BANK, escorted by KITTIWAKE and LA MELPOMENE reported the laying of mines in the East Coast Barrier completed this afternoon.
ZME. 24.	This operation was postponed owing to fog.
S.N. 69.	R.A.(M) left Port ZA at 1915 with 1st MLS escorted by 4 destroyers, to lay mines between Faroes and Iceland. C. in C. H.F. is covering the operation in NELSON with NIGERIA and A/S air escort and fighter protection have been arranged. Two mines, said to be British exploded this morning in SHEFFIELD's P/V at the entrance to the North Channel. The only damage is that her endurance is reduced 12% by leakage in damaged oil fuel tanks.
Mining of Thames Estuary.	Some 23 acoustic mines were detonated todsy by sweepers in the area between Shoeburyness and Sheppey. Nevertheless, traffic was enabled to proceed as usual and no damage was incurred by any of the 125 ships in convoy or by the various destroyers which entered and left the Thames to-day. M.G.B. 42 was damaged by mine explosion when crossing Mount's Bay. An unknown ship was mined or torpedoed at 2055 in 56° 18' N. 2° 20' W. (off Fife Ness). Blyth was opened this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A second ship, Dutch TAPANOELI in Convoy S.L.68 was torpedoed last night about 110 miles E. of Cape Verde Is. There were indications this morning that the convoy was being shadowed by U/Boat. SS ANDALUSIAN was torpedoed this evening SE of Cape Verde Is.

Mediterranean.

Six Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour last night.

Naval Unit torpedoed at Valona.

One Swordfish last night attacked shipping at Valona and torpedoed a cruiser or destroyer. 4 Swordfish attacked shipping at Durazzo registering 2 hits and 2 probable hits.
Benghazi was bombed at dawn today. No damage or casualties were caused.

Situation Report.

A situation report (C.in C. Med., 0945/17) covering the period 4/3 to 17/3 has been received at the Admiralty.
All forces are at present engaged in covering "Lustre" and Aegean convoys.
Since 4/3 16000 troops have been transported

Supplies to the Western Desert force are being maintained via Mersa Tobruk, Derna, is used for patrols. PEONY and Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY were unsuccessfully attacked by T.B. when trying to tow off KNIGHT OF MALTA which was aground north of Bardia on 3/3.

Fleet fighter aircraft are attacking Albania ports and providing fighter protection for convoys when near Crete.

/With

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Situation Report. (Contd.)	With regard to the S.O.S. by S.S. CAPO VITA and ATTILIO DEFENU on 9/3. UTMOST attacked these vessels in Gulf of Hammamet and considers she sank one of them. They were laden with troops. UNIQUE considers she sank S.S. FENICIA fully laden in escorted convoy, who made S.O.S. on 10/3 on the Naples, Tripoli route.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

WELLS.
NEWARK.

Adty. 1148/16. Request if possible WELLS and NEWARK may join my flag at Port ZA by 31/3. (R.A.M. 0908/17 to C.in C. W.A.).
Secretary of Air Defence has asked for any information available as to British or German mines between Greenland or Iceland. (N.A. Washington 1045/17 to D.N.I.).

Iceland. Ship repairing facilities.

Reference 20(?)4/15 from C.in C. W.A. to PETUNIA. Details of facilities. (F.O. Iceland 1112/17).

Incendiary ammunition for Ships.

Your 2102/13. A limited supply of .303 inch incendiary has been released to Naval service to assist in trade defence, and will be sent to Capts. D, Londonderry, Liverpool, Greenock for use in convoy escort vessels only. (A.C.N.S. T. 1329/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

Oerlikon Guns.

C.in C. Rosyth 2305/16. I support most strongly these recommendations. They apply equally to ships of the 21st and 16th flotillas who are employed on anti E-boat patrols and reinforcement of convoy escorts in the E-boat area. (C.in C. Nore 1540/17).

Star Shells. Importance of supply in Nore Command.

S.A.S.O. Upnor states all all available stocks of four inch star shells have been transferred to Liverpool by Admiralty Order.
Encounter with E boats on East Coast are now a nightly occurrence except when weather is too bad for these pests to operate. Our defensive measures against them are meagre. Any success so far achieved in driving off or damage to them has been dependent on adequately illuminating them. This can normally be achieved only with star shells.
VANESSA requires Replenishment of four inch Q.F. Mark five star shells after encounter with E boats cannot be supplied, and consequently cannot proceed on anti E boat patrol today. Continual expenditure of four inch and 4.7 star shells is to be expected by all destroyers in The Nore Command so long as convoys continue to run. Experience has shown that burning searchlight causes A.S.V. to cease functioning due to drop in voltage. (C.in C. Nore 1714/17).

/ PATIA.
EMPIRE AUDACITY. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

PATIA.
EMPIRE AUDACITY.

Reply to Prime Minister's directions contained in A.M. 1329/15:-
PATIA can be completed in approx. 4 weeks from date of delivery as following:
If Type 79 M can be dispensed with PATIA can be completed approx. 31/3, ex trials.
EMPIRE AUDACITY. Approx date of completion is mid-June provided as follows.
This date is ex trials. Have assumed that extreme priority mentioned in A.M. 1329/15 means Priority 1 A.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1911/17).

Defence of U.K.

Scapa
A/A Defences.

Your 1330/15. The sooner the better. Request I may be given date, names, and numbers so that accommodation can be arranged. (A.C.O.S. 1141/17).

Movements.

KENYA.

Admiralty 0139/17. KENYA is to pass gate at 1600 today.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0954/17).

HOOD.
NESTOR.
WHADDON.
ERIDGE.

NESTOR with WHADDON, ERIDGE, proceed passing Switha 2100 today to arrive off May Island 0900/18. Thence proceed to Rosyth at a speed not exceeding 9 knots.
2. You will be required to provide Escort to Pentland Firth for HOOD who is passing May Island 2000/18.
3. On arrival in Pentland Firth WHADDON, ERIDGE will be relieved by two Destroyers and are then to return to Scapa. Subsequently HOOD will carry out full power trial and firings West of Orkneys before entering Harbour. (R.A.D. 1010/17 to NESTOR).

EXETER.

Your 1617/14. Request you will sail EXETER at your discretion at earliest possible date.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1640/17 to C.in C. Plymouth.).

S/M's

The following submarines may be met during the night. (C.in C. W.A. 1802/17 to HAVELOCK, etc.).

L.26.

Following movements may affect you.
(S.9. 1953/17 to L.26.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Patrol.

Failing other instructions from Adty., NORFOLK is to sail from Scapa 18/3 and proceed Reykjavik. After refuelling NORFOLK is to operate in support of Denmark Straits patrol line refuelling Reykjavik when necessary. NORFOLK (?may) from this duty proceed with (corrupt group) continuing during dark hours southward and westward (C.in C. H.F. 0904/17).

ARGUS. Operation "Winch".

Adty. 1346/12. Disembarkation of training aircraft completed P.M./16. Understand aircraft for embarkation have not yet arrived Abbotsinch. (ARGUS 1144/17).

Anti E-Boat Patrol.

Remain with F.N.34 until arrival at 6 buoy, then establish anti E.boat patrol in 40 Q Z S between 5 buoy and Smiths Knoll zig-zagging at 20 knots if conditions permit. A/P vessels north of 5 buoy have been withdrawn. F.N.33 due 5 buoy 2207/7. No F.3. convoy tonight. Return to Harbour with D.21. (C.in C. Nore 1411/17 to COTTESMORE, VESPER)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Weather permitting patrols R 1, R 2, and FUGLE will be flown today by 18 group A/C. (C.in C. Rosyth 0421/17).
My 0421/17 now in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth 0805/17).
Following air patrols now in operation TROST SHAB BERT STAND (C.in C. Rosyth 1000/17).
Aircraft patrol Denmark Strait today is cancelled on account of weather. (F.O.Iceland 1026/17).
Aircraft from 16 Group will patrol off Dutch Coast from 1800 to 1930 to-day, also along Meridian of 3° E. South of 53° N. from 2000/17. Flares may be dropped. (C.in C. Nore, 1719/17).

/ A/S Escort and Fighter Protection. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

A/S Escort and Fighter Protection.

Operation S.N.69. (i) A/S air escort will be flown by Hudsons throughout daylight 18/3 and from 1400 until last light on 20/3 and by Sunderlands on 19/3 and until 1400 on 20/3. (ii) Fighter protection will be provided by two Blenheims at immediate readiness until 1500 on 18/3 and by two Blenheims from 1500 on 20/3.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1430/17).

Air Decoys in Northern Ireland.

Re practicability of installation of decoys for Naval interests in Northern Ireland. This examination is purely exploratory.
(D. of L.D. 2003/17).

Air Decoys in Scotland.

It is under consideration to appoint an Officer to advise on all matters in connection with decoy in the whole of Scotland, including Orkney. Detail of proposals.
Request your views.
(D. of L.D. 2003/17).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth bombed.

At 2045 a stick of small H.E. bombs was dropped at Collingwood. Slight damage. No casualties. There was a dense fog at the time. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0246/17).

Enemy A/C burning Navigation Lights during Raid of Night 9/10.

Commander A A Guard reports that leading seaman of guard in SYLVIA BEALE has reported that during attack on C.W.28 on night of 9/3 A/C approached from English coast burning navigation lights and flying fairly low. No offensive action was taken by other ships including escort although AA guard of SYLVIA BEALE opened fire prior to bombing attack during which she received one hit. O.C. guard aboard s.s. LAMWORTH confirms that planes were low and burning lights and that no balloons were flying.
A A guard have been warned to expect enemy aircraft to burn navigation lights. Suggest that escorts should be so informed.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1227/17).

Convoy W.N. Odd.

Fighters are being sent to assist convoy.
(Lyness W/T 1407/17).

/ TEVIOT BANK ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy ~~British~~ Air Activity. (Contd.)

TEVIOT BANK. 1 minelayer and escort being attacked by enemy aircraft in 55° 34' N. 1° 27' W. (Rosyth W/T 1435/17).

Convoy F.N. Even. CORMEAD damaged. One aircraft shadowing convoy course 180° distance 2 miles, position 51° 50' N. 1° 35' E. (COTTESMORE 1436/17).
Enemy bombing Convoy. Position 52° 57' N. 1° 15' E. (PYTCHLEY 1723/17).
Enemy bombing Convoy in 52° 15' N. 1° 57' E. (VERSATILE 1739/17).
My 1739. 2 D.A. bombs no damage. (VERSATILE 1800/17).
(British, 2848 tons) in F.N.34. Damaged by bomb and making for Lowestoft may be overtaken after dark. Tugs leaving Lowestoft to assist.
(C.in C. Nore 1941/17 to Capt. D.21).
2 tugs coming to assist CORMEAD.
(C.in C. Nore 1943/17 to PYTCHLEY).

STRINDA Engagement of Enemy A/C. Night 10/11. Master of Norwegian STRINDA reports, while off Milford Haven to assemble in Convoy O.B.297, at about 2130 on 10/3/41, relays of aircraft appeared. Vessel began firing with Hotchkiss .303 bullets and continued until 0030/11. In all 600 rounds were fired. Master believes 3 aircraft were struck by the bullets. 1 aircraft was observed to lose altitude rapidly then take a heavy list and finally disappear flying just above the sea apparently out of control.
(S.O.I. Greenock 1457/17).

LADY LILIAN sunk 16/2. (A/S Trawler). Arrived ST. APOLLO with 29 survivors from LADY LILIAN 3 slightly wounded. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1545/17).
H.M. trawler LADY LILIAN sunk by enemy action. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1723/17).

Convoy F.N. Odd. Being attacked by enemy aircraft in 51° 42' N. 1° 20' E. (HASTINGS 1736/17).
My 1736. One Dornier disappeared to eastward. (HASTINGS 1746/17).
Aircraft despatched to assist.
(Cleethorpes Radio 1742/17).

/ MOLLUSC ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

MOLLUSC. (A/S Yacht) Sank at 1457/17 in about 115° Blyth Port War Signal station 2½ miles due to two near misses from enemy bombs. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1750/17).

BRITOMART (Bombed 15/3) M.S.1 1653/15 and 0940/16. Preliminary inspection of bomb damage to BRITOMART as follows. No underwater leaks. Temporary repairs in hand. Vessel is safe in present position. Repairs will take several days. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1917/17).

Dover 4 Balloons shot down. At 1619 today in conditions of low cloud an enemy aircraft shot down four waterborne balloons. (V.A. Dover 2005/17).

Glasgow Area. Air Attack of Night 13/14. TREVARRACK (British, 5270 tons) sunk in Basin. ATHENE (Norwegian Tanker, 4681 tons) damaged. CLERMISTON (British 1448 tons) sunk in dock.

My 1945/16, 2129/16. No further enemy action last night. Situation at Old Kilpatrick oil tanks has improved, only one tank No.31 remains alight and will burn until a.m. Wednesday. Tank No.29 a full tank, was saved. One seaman has been reported as missing from Polish Destroyer since night 13/3. Reports from affected yards are as follows. Two further U.S.B's or U.X. P.M's reported on south bank of river, below high water mark, but approx. 300 ft. off the Channel. River still open to traffic. Further reports of damage to shipping on the night of 13th March have been received. S.S. TRAVARRACK sunk in Dalmuir Basin by H.E. bomb is listing against J.1359 (ATHENE) also damaged by the same bomb, but only slightly. S.S. CLERMISTON was set on fire by bomb and sank in Rothesay Dock. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2116/17).

Clyde. Air Raid 14/15. My 2129/16/3. Mine which exploded yesterday morning in Princes Dock has permanently put one berth out of action and has done damage which prevents flooding all three docks at Govan. Temporary repairs to flooding arrangements should be completed by A.M./19th. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2329/17).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.69.

In view of situation in Western Atlantic and possibility of early return of German men of war great importance is attacked to timely completion of Operation S.N.69.
(1st S.L. 0013/17).
Departure Port ZA.R.A. (M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, CASTLETON, ST. MARYS, LANCASTER, and CHARLESTON to carry out S.N.69.
(TRELAWNEY 1915/17).

SHEFFIELD
2 Minesexploded in Paravanes.

Mines exploded in Paravane 0600 and 0616 in 055° 32' N. 006° 55' W. and 055° 33' N. 007° 04' W. Ship undamaged.
(SHEFFIELD 0622/17).
My 0622/17. One switch horn and large pieces of mine casing have been picked up on board which should definitely identify type of mine. Paravanes were set to 30 feet. Speed 19 knots.
(SHEFFIELD 0701/17).
My 0701/17. Ratings with mining experience identified switch horn as British mark XVII type mine. (SHEFFIELD 0824/17 and 1910/17).
My 0622/17. Ship is fit for any service with an endurance reduced by 12 per cent by leakage in damaged oil fuel tanks.
(SHEFFIELD 2001/17).

Thames Estuary.

Approximately 23 accoustic mines detonated by Sheerness sweepers today in area between Shoeburyness and Sheppey. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0927/17, 1600/17, 1713/17, 2740/17, 2250/17. C.in C. Nore 2140/17).

Humber.

My 1934/16. 3 Red mines exploded on 16/3 by L.E. Sweepers. Details.
(F.O. Humber 1007/17).

Z.M.E.24.

Intend leaving Milford Haven, 1630 today for Z.M.E.24 to lay at midnight returning on completion about 0800 tomorrow.
(PLOVER 1010/17).
Movement in PLOVER's 1010/17 postponed 24 hours due to fog. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1529/17).
Your 1529/17. Owing to the necessity for stopping traffic operation is to be postponed to night of 19/20 March.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1940/17 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

/ B.S.51. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

B.3.51. — Operation B.3.51 completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1440/17).

Blyth. — Port of Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1455/17).

Milford Haven on 10/3. — Master of Norwegian STRINDA reports Parachute Mines being dropped from A/C off Milford Haven at about 2130/10/3. (S.O.I. Greenock 1457/17 to Adty.).

S.N.4. — Propose to sail for S.N.4 A.M./25 and lay between 060° 45' N. 006° 34' W. and 060° 21' N. 005° 53' W. on 26th, returning to Port Z.A. A.M./27th.
Request C.in C. H.F. will say if Cover will be available. (R.A.M.L. 1531/17).

Aultbea Loop Minefield. — Loop mine field laid and in operation. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1613/17).

Southampton Observation Minefield. — F.O.I/C Southampton 1451/12/1. Observation minefield at Southampton is now in operation. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1633/17).

Dungeness. Clearance Sweep. — M/S F.1 will leave Newhaven at 0630/18, sweeping in the neighbourhood of Dungeness. Fighter escort is requested. SPEEDY is remaining at Newhaven for boiler cleaning. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1730/17).
You should continue sweeping operations tomorrow in accordance with my 1309/15.
Movements should be reported 24 hours in advance if possible for air escort to be arranged. Anchorage is only to be taken up in low visibility or bad flying weather and should not be in the same position on consecutive nights. (V.A. Dover 1752/17 to M.3.1.).

M.C.B.42. — Damaged by mine explosion when crossing Mounts Bay. Vessel damaged but brought to Newlyn and beached. One rating slightly injured. After compartment flooded but total damage unknown. (R.N.O. Penzance 1945/17).
My 1945/17. Explosion occurred in about 50° 5' 37" N. 5° 31' W.
(R.N.O. Penzance 2045/17).

Unknown Ship mined off St. Andrews. — For information. Ship either mined or torpedoed in 056° 18' N., 002° 20' W. at 2055. (C.in C. Rosyth 2224/17 to SPEEDWELL).
Keep 5 miles to eastward of position where ship was reported mined at 2055.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2306/17 to SPEEDWELL, etc.).

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.

7 E/Boats reported in 052° 28'N., 003° 45'E. at 1700 steering West at high speed. (C.in C. Nore, 1907/17).
One enemy war motor boat bearing 180° distance 1 Mile course 240° my position 050° Lowestoft 7 miles.
(COTTESMORE, 2113/17).

My 2113. 2 enemy war motor boats.
(COTTESMORE 2115/17.).

Miscellaneous.

Strike at R.N.Torpedo Factory.

Further to my T.F.73/61/120 dated 14/3/41. Apprentices have gone on strike as from P.M. today.
(Supt: R.N.Factory, 1450/17).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Evasive steering.	Your 2332/16. In view of your 1843/15 I am now of opinion that evasive steering should not be carried out by any convoy whether with or without escort. Instructions in para.3 of your 2332/16 should however invariably be carried out subject to the proviso in para.4. This is to provide for two contingencies (named). Consider most important that passage through W.Approaches should be carried out with the minimum of delay. (C.in C. W.A. 1948/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ANGLE (A/S Trawler).	Effected repairs and now towing ANGLE 265° 14 miles from Tory Island speed 10 knots. (TENACITY 1450/17).
BARRHEAD (Grounded 29/12/40).	My 1737/18/2. Efforts to salve BARRHEAD not successful. Hull engines and boilers remain sound. Communication with ship involves 70 miles by pony through snow and flooded rivers. Propose to turn over ship to Icelandic Salvage party. (F.O.Iceland, 1147/17).
AUBRIETIA.	Sustained collision damage above and below water line. Requires docking. Can proceed under own power. Request instructions. (C.in C. W.A. 1331/17).
KILMUN (Cable ship) FYLLA (British 792 tons) damaged.	FYLLA was in collision with Cable Club KILMUN a.m./16th. FYLLA beached off Yarmouth. Damage consists of vertical split port side amid ships engine and boiler rooms flooded. KILMUN has bow sleeves damaged and is useless for cable work until repairs now being undertaken in Dockyard are completed. Date of completion uncertain. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1726/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

KENYA
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL
S.L.67.

Request you sail KENYA to R/V with RENOWN and ARK ROYAL at 1000 G.M.T./19 in estimated position 046° N., 23° 30'W, course 006° speed 6½ knots and relieve them as ocean escort for S.L.67.

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL will be leaving convoy at dusk/19 to return to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(H) 0139/17 to C.in C. Plymouth).

OTUS.

Adjust speed to pass through position F at 0700/18 and 330 Cape Spartel 10 at 0700/19 thence proceeding unescorted to Gibraltar. Report if unable to comply within 2 hours of time stated.
(Capt: S.8., 0946/17 to OTUS).

VERBENA.

My 1240/13. Detach VERBENA as requisite to arrive Gibraltar a.m./22.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1532/17 to FOLKESTONE).

ASAKA MARU.

Japanese, will leave Bilbao about 1800/17.
(Bilbao 1701/17 to D.N.I.)

Sighting of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU 8/3.

Your 1203/15 crew are convinced first vessel in approach was not dummy but as regards second they are not so certain. Film will give all possible details. No other information available at present.
(Consul Teneriffe 1520/17).

MONSELET
French.

Arrived 153 from Bilbao.
(V. Consul, Gijon, T.H.I. 1900/17).

Germans in MARQUES DE COMILLAS.

Your 1802/15. In view of later reports about Spanish MARQUES DE COMILLAS no action required, vide W.P.P.S. 216.
(D.E.W.D. 1936/17 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Port Lautey.

1600/17. Escort vessel and 2 submarines entering Port Lyautey from South.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 2041/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SIAM II. — Overdue shipping. SIAM II due Capetown 13/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1051B/17).

MARGARET JOHNSON. — Following for N.C.S.O. Your 1035/14. Report whether Swedish MARGARET JOHNSON was routed via Skopen Fiord. (D.E.W.D. 1207/17 to Consul, Bahia). Your 1207/17. No. Master would not undertake to follow route to Kirkwall and sailed at his own risk without any route. (N.C.S.O. Bahia, 1215/17).

Japanese Oil Supplies. — Osaka S.S. company endeavouring to obtain increased supplies of fuel in Montevideo for Japanese ships. (details). Reason given is that delays are experienced at Capetown where it is not now intended they should fuel. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1221/17 to D.N.I.)

Shipping Cape Verde. — Unless the surface raider situation does not admit of alteration suggest shipping should be diverted to West of Cape Verde Islands now. Your 1905/6/1 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 1229N/17 to Admty).

GERUSALEMME. — And German ships at Lourenco Marques. Re possibility of enemy cutting them out or damaging. (C.G. Lourenco Marques 1235/17).

Fuelling at Bathurst. — My 1251/16 not to Admiralty. Arrangements made to fuel Corvettes at Bathurst. Corvettes are to remain with convoy until necessary to return to Bathurst. (C.in C. S.A. 1711/17 to MALAYA).

DRAGON FURIOUS. — Your 1303/5. DRAGON will accompany FURIOUS to Takoradi, will fuel destroyers there but will have to fuel Lagos herself before return. Intend DRAGON shall follow FURIOUS as closely as possible on return but FURIOUS shall not wait unless situation requires. (C.in C. S.A. 1731/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

W.S.7. — Ocean escort for W.S.7. from Freetown is to be provided as follows:- Freetown to Cape - REPULSE. Cape to Durban and onwards - two cruisers as arranged by C.in C. E.I. Red Sea - as ordered by C.in C. E.I. (D.O.D.(F) 1747/17 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A.)

Suspicious Portuguese tanker. — In position 037° 32' N., 023° 09'W. at 2112 observed small Portugusse tanker GORGULHO bound Ponta Delgada from Lisbon acting suspiciously. Strong all round masthead light. Flashing le ters of alphabet and exhibiting flares throwing stars. Did not board owing to possibility of R/V with U/Boat. (BULOLO, 2112/17 to C.in C. S.A.)

Following has been read.

"Q" Report TEKOA. — QQQQ de GJF. Disguised Merchant Raider 03.37 N., 10.09W. TEKOA suspicious. Signal ceased abruptly. (Sumburgh, Aerogonio 2325/17).

Mediterranean.

Situation report. — Covers Operation "Lustre"; supply of Western Desert Force, unsuccessful attack by T.B. on PEONY and Fleet tug ST. ISSEY when trying to tow off KNIGHT OF MALTA which ran aground north of Bardia on 3/3; work of F.A.A; sinking of either S.S. CAPO VITA or DEFENU 9/3 by UTMOST in Gulf of Hammamet; sinking of S.S. FENICIA by UNIQUE 10/3 on Naples - Tripoli route; sinking on 2/3 by TRIUMPH of two loaded ships of about 25,000 tons each anchored off Meliti, 5 miles S.E. of Cape Dellarini. (C.in C. Med. 0945/17). See Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

A.N.F.20.	Arrived Piraeus 1800/17. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 0945/17).
Shipping Tripoli.	Day 16/3 Blenheim reconnaissances reported ships in Tripoli, and off Buerat Elhsun.
Valona shipping attacked.	15/16 March. 3 Swordfish F.A.A. attacked shipping Valona Harbour with torpedoes. Results unobserved. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1211/17).
DERNA. (Italian).	17/3. arrived from Genoa. (Barcelona 1254/17).
Canal area Shipping.	In view of enemy mining activities in Canal Area it is essential that all signals including Vesca telegrams indicate clearly positions of ships reported i.e. at Suez Port Said or intermediately. Port Said and Suez should be treated as separate ports and arrivals and departures reported accordingly. (D.T.D. 1414/17 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
Landing Craft.	Cancel my 1936/13/11, 1039/10/12, 1820/30/1 and 1236/3/2 and S.B.N.O. Suez Canal's 1615/12. Following is revised arrival programme for Landing, Craft Carriers, Raiding Craft and personnel in Middle East. (Head of M., 1517/17, 2200/18 to C.in C. Med)
Convoy G.A.5.	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1930/17).
Malta Air Report.	0730 to 1215. Glenn Martin photo R/C Naples Harbour. Convoys sighted. (Details Enemy activity over Malta. Small enemy formations approached the Island on 2 occasions 17/3 but turned away without crossing the coast line. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1600/17).
Convoy B.N.19.	Arrived at Suez 17/3. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1703/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

PARTHIAN.	Leave patrol p.m./19 for Alexandria (route) (Capt: S.1. 1829/17 to PARTHIAN).
A.N.F.(?20).	Arrived Piraeus, 1800/17. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1945/17 to C.in C. Med).
SPARTA SULLBERG (German).	15/3 arrival SPARTA, departure SULLBERG for Genoa. (Consul, Valencia, T.H.I. 2004/17).
Naples - W. Sicily S/M Patrol.	Reconnaissance Naples 17/3 (details) In view of above and my 1855/15 consider putting a large submarine on patrol on route Naples to West Sicily should be profitable. (V.A.Malta, 2015/17 to C.in C. Med.)
Spanish S/M's in Strait of Gibraltar.	Your 1726/14. Spanish Govt., have not repudiated agreement which should be regarded as still in force. (Head of M. 2048/17 to C.in C. Med.)
TETRARCH.	(Defects). Consider may develop beyond advisable running limit before end of patrol. (TETRARCH, 2100/17 to Capt: S.1.)
Enemy M/V's Burat.	Aircraft R/C today reports one large 3 medium and 4 small merchant ships anchored off Burat. Also 2 camps of 50 tents along road. (Capt: S.1. 2151/17 to TRUANT).
NORBERG) YALOVA.)	German have been lying up at Braila owing to silting of mouth of Danube, but YALOVA was about to leave on 16/3 and proceeded to Istanbul. (D.S.560).
CORDELIA.	German Arrived Istanbul, 16/3. (D.S.560).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raider 16.	For Raider EDWARD my 1432/16 (condition etc. of Raider 16.) see A.M. 1951/4/1. (C.in C. E.I. 0414Z/17 to A.C.N.B. etc.) See also 1806/17.
B.N.20.	17/3 0240Z. Departure AUCKLAND with B.N.20. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0420Z/17). List (27 ships) and cargoes. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0735Z/17).
DELHI.	Your 2350/15. DELHI could not have reached Durban with more than ten per cent fuel remaining. I have therefore ordered her to replenish at Mauritius where she will arrive 0400 G.M.T./18. (C.in C. E.I. 0444Z/17 to Admty).
Shipping Aden.	Your 1630/13. concur, but consider Ports on South Coast Gulf Aden should be responsibility of S.T.O. Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0736Z/17 to D. of S.T.)
W.S.6.	N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1245/13 and C.in C. S.A.'s 2031/14. As the five ships mentioned in para.1 of my 0644/13 will arrive Durban by 30/3, request that departure of W.S.6. from Durban be delayed to enable these ships to be included in the convoy. Considered most undesirable that these ships should be left behind at Durban until escort can be provided which would in any case have to be a weaker escort than that accompanying W.S.6. (C.in C. E.I. 0744Z/17 to C.in C. S.A.)
B.M.5.	Bombay departure 17/3. HECTOR with B.M.5. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0811Z/17 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Capture of Berbera.

It is believed there were 1500 Italian troops in Berbara night of 15/16. Most of these left when most effective bombardment by cruisers and destroyers opened up. H.M. Ships disembarked troops and tows. Landings were intermittently shelled by four or six guns of about 4" calibre. Also slight machine gun fire. Fortunately only one slight casualty.
(C.in C. E.I. 0934Z/17 to Admty etc.)

M.T.B's. India.

Asking whether any M.T.B's up to 8 can be spared for India and if so the approx. date they could be made available.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1042Z/17 to Admty).

Use of mines by M/V's.

Your 0941/27. The dropping of floating mines by merchant ships has been considered on previous occasions and has not been taken up for the following reasons:- Large numbers required compared with probability of achieving results. Danger to friendly ships. Handling and maintenance difficulties both on board and at terminal ports.
(Head of M., 1437/17 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

HELGA MOLLER.

My 1200/16. Consular shipping adviser, Laurence Marques reports ship is beached East side of island on even keel and in no danger. Salvage anticipated crew remains on board.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1522/17 to Admty etc.)

Norwegian NIDARLAND, KATTEGAT.

Your 1817/14. KATTEGAT arrived Colaschel 27/2, departed 5/3 for Capetown and U.S.A. NIDARLAND arrived Colaschel 3/3 departed 10/3 for same destination.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1606Z/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Raiders 16 and 21.

Your 1432Z/16. Raider 16 commanded by Rogge sank AUTOMEDON 11/11. At 15 knots she could then have reached CARNARVON CASTLE's position, but could not have remained with 12-knot OLE JACOB till 16/11. After engagement she could have reached Kerguelen at 15 knots by 21/12 but if she remained there 6 weeks could not have reached Seychelles by 24/1. Suggest as Wolffmeanwhile at Kismayu he is muddled and that CARNARVON CASTLE's raider may have previously sunk BRITISH COMMANDER etc. and is possibly No.21, which after repairing damage is returning to Germany with whalers captured by No.33.
(D.D.I.C. 1806/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

German Prisoners.

Ref: Mauritius, (N.O.I.C.) 0424Z/11, 0637Z/11 and 0613/11 to Admiralty. * Please ascertain whether KITTY BROVIG and COBERG were the vessels of origin of personnel detained and whether these or other vessels of origin were merchant vessels or armed raiders, also whether personnel concerned are members of the German Armed Forces or Merchant Seamen.
(W.O. 2110/17 to O.C. Troops, Mauritius).
* (Re German prisoners of war received into Military custody at Mauritius).

MOST SECRET

War Diary .

17.3.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Italian CARIGNANO	Left Kobe 15/3. (Capt. O.S., Singapore 03422/17 to Admty. etc.) Cancelled, see 0818/19)
HALDIS NARWHAL	HALDIS (A) 20 miles W. of Greatsayer Melanpus (D) 010° S H.M.S. NARWHAL (I) 014° S. 160° E (K) 013° S. 174° ?E (M) 006° 161°. (S.O.I. Singapore 0407Z/17 to Admty. Capt. O.S. Singapore.)
Warship sighted 11/3.	Capt. O.S. Singapore 0541/16 is being passed to you. (O.I.C. 2012/17 to A.C.N.B)

Australia

Troop Convoy	HOBART Flying the flag of F.O.C. Aust. Sqdn., AUSTRALIA, SYDNEY departed Fremantle 0100Z/17 escorting H.M's transports MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM. (A.C.N.B. 2125/Z/17)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Force X, operations against raiders. Cancel Admty. 1903/15 and 0511/16. SEVERN is to proceed to Freetown in accordance with previous instructions, covering as much of the area you were to search as practicable. (1st. S.L., 0012/17. to Force X.).

Raiders may return North Sea, orders to K.G.V. RODNEY's 2129z/16. We are inclined to think that the ships which have been raiding in the Newfoundland area are returning to North Sea. If this is so there is a danger that they may come across a wave of ships originally belonging to Convoy O.B.295 but now proceeding independently. These ships were probably within 100 miles of 56° N., 35° W., at 1200/16. Mean course 210° Failing any further information regarding the raider you are to proceed at best speed to cover these ships assuming that you will ultimately proceed to Scapa. (1st. S.L. 0056/17, to KING GEORGE V.).

Enemy Tanker. My 2154Z/16. Tanker resembled ALTMARK and may have been ERMLAND (corrupt group) ROYAL SOVEREIGN took over H X 114 during absence of RODNEY. (RODNEY, 0135Z/17, to Admty.).

DIOMEDE. My 1228/21/2. DIOMEDE need no longer be retained in Pacific and is at your disposal. (1 S.L. 0140/17, to C. in C. A.W.I.).

A/C Search. Your 1841/3. Weather permitting aircraft search being carried out 17/3, covering H.X.114 and S.C.25 commencing 1400 G.M.T. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0225/17, to C. in C. A.W.I.).

/My 0225/17....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

A/C Search.	My 0225/17, flight cancelled due to unfavourable weather. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1050/17.)
A/S. Defences Halifax.	Your 2244/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (Re extension of U-Boat warfare to Western side of Atlantic.). Would be of great assistance in strengthening A/S defences at Halifax if BUXTON could be retained by R.A. 3rd B.S. for the present. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1001/17, to Admty.).
Protection of Convoys.	Request approx. position and date of dispersal of outward bound convoys may be passed to me to facilitate appreciation of waves of westbound shipping and provision of cover in N.W. Atlantic when forces permit. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1212/17, to Admty.).
Vessels sighted by A/C.	Your 2234/16. (A/C search). Can you identify 6000 ton A.M.C. and tanker as British? Was 4000 ton ship cruiser or A.M.C? If enemy cruiser state number of turrets and any details. (D.D.I.C. 1214/17 to C.O.A. C. Halifax.).
H.X.115.	Your 1235/17. (H.X.115 to be sailedtoday.). Regret no submarine available for H.X.115. Ocean escort is CALIFORNIA. (F.O.3.B.S. 1224/17 to Admty.).
Vessels available for anti-U-boat operations.	Your 2244/14. Ref. para. (A), One "TOWNS" class destroyer and four corvettes immediately available. Two TOWNS Class refitting available early in May. SKEENA and ST. LAURENT complete refit mid May. Three more Corvettes available mid-April from West Coast and eight additional by mid-May. A few A/S equipped Auxiliary patrol vessels of doubtful effectiveness.

/Air Force.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Air Force have 3 Digby aircraft at Newfoundland Airport, 10 Digby, 9 Stranraer and 15 Hudsons at Halifax. Ref. Para.(b) Consider minimum forces required to ensure adequate A/S protection approach to Halifax are 9 destroyers and 15 corvettes. We accordingly require at least 4 more destroyers to ensure having 9 in operation by mid-May. Request four "RIVER" Class Canadian destroyers now operating in U.K. be sent to make up this deficiency. Corvette situation will be satisfactory by mid-May but 10 R.C.N. crews now serving in R.N. Corvettes may return to Canada by end of April. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1501/17, to Admty.).

Overdue Ships.

Following ships have not arrived: Your 1717/23 Norwegian SVEIN TARL. Your unnumbered /23 British SIRIKISHNA. Your 1244/4, British RIMUTAKA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1632/17.).

A.M.C.'s for transport of Service personnel.

Admty. 2251/28. Decided to put this scheme into operation with first sailing to Reykjavik from Clyde on 2/4, and from Halifax with first A.M.C. due Reykjavik on or after 1/4.
Responsibilities for Operation.
R.A. 3rd B.S. 1846/4 and C. in C. A.W.I., 1232/8. Object of an A.M.C. carrying personnel when acting as ocean escort to a convoy must still remain the safety of the convoy. If other surface forces form part of the ocean escort, the actual employment of the A.M.C. in defence of the convoy must be at the discretion of the S.O. of the escort. Approved to fit all A.M.Cs, employed on this service to carry maximum number of personnel in their present condition.(A.C.N.S.(H) 1931/17, to R.A. 3.B.S., etc.).

ORINOCO.

Tampico report (B 2). Captain German ship ORINOCO 16/3, advised crew to be ready to sail at any time. Possible (corrupt group) destination Guatemala Port. Cylinder head not arrived but ship can proceed. (S.O.I. Kingston, 2043/17.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FRANCHE COMTE
J.B. WHITE
FERN
VENETIAN
(torpedoed 16/3).

Am standing by FRANCHE COMTE and FERM. Both ships badly damaged. Possibility of salvage (i) good (ii) fair. Please send tugs. My position is 060° 40' N. 012° 50' W. (BLUEBELL, 0355/17, to C.in C. W.A.).
Have 12 survivors from FRANCHE COMTE 5 from VENETIAN and 1 from FERM. Standing by FRANCHE COMTE & VENETIAN in 060° 57' N. 012° 27' W. to consider possibility of salvage in daylight.
(NORTHERN FOAM, 0620/17, to S.O.T.N-P.).
Survivors from following ships have been picked up VENETIA, FERN, FRANCHE COMTE, and J.B. WHITE. BLUEBELL is standing by FRANCHE COMTE which is salvable in position 061° N. 012° W. WALKER and VANOC are with survivors from 2 German submarines sunk. VANOC is holed forward from ramming submarine but is seaworthy. SCIMITAR, SARDONYX, and HYDRANGEA are with convoy.
(WALKER, 0649/17, to C.in C. W.A.).
Proceed forthwith to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0838/17, to BRIGAND, 0845/17 to PRUDENT, ZWARTE ZEE).
Your 0355/17. Tugs are being sent to remain with torpedoed ships. (C.in C. W.A., 1007/17, to BLUEBELL).
Sailed Tugs PRUDENT and ZWARTE ZEE from Campbeltown and BRIGAND from Loch Ewe to assist at 0527/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1058/17, to Admty.).
Return to HX 112 and continue to escort convoy.
(C.in C. W.A., 1228/17, to VANOC, WALKER).
Escorting FRANCHE COMTE proceeding under her own power, course and speed 132° five.
FERM abandoned still afloat position 061° 04'N. 011° 35' W. (BLUEBELL, 1300/17).
Air R/C indicates that there are two disabled ships with escort vessels standing by in 61° 01' N. 12° 44' W. at 1235/17. Another trawler is standing by FERN whilst FRANCHE COMTE and escort are making good 3 knots in approx. similar position.
(C.in C. W.A., 1445/17, to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
My 0520/17. All survivors on board FRANCHE COMTE and ship proceeding escorted by BLUEBELL.
Tanker FERM abandoned 061° 12' N. 012° 11' W. observed drifting N.N.W. Ship appears to be salvable. (NORTHERN FOAM, 1520/17, to S.O.T.N.P.).
Proceed to 60° 01' N. 12° 44' W., where FERM and two other disabled ships were reported by aircraft at 1233. FRANCHE COMTE making good 3 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1530/17, to PRUDENT, ZWARTE ZEE, BRIGAND).

/ Request you will sail PETUNIA.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941. Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

FRANCHE COMTE
J.B. WHITE
FERM
VENETIAN
(torpedoed 16/3).
(Contd.)

Request you will sail PETUNIA when ready 061° N. 012° W. to search for damaged ships ex H.X.112. She may be required to escort any ship taken in tow back to Minches.
(C.in C. W.A., 2345/17, to F.O.I.C. Iceland.

RUNSWICK
(chased by S/M, 12/3).

Ministry of Shipping's 1753/3 and my 1009/12, RUNSWICK has not arrived Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0950/17, to Admty.).
Cancel my 0950/17. RUNSWICK has now arrived. Master reports Submarine gave chase, turning away when SSSS Broadcast.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1825/17, to Admty.)
W.D. Note. - S/M was PORPOISE, see 1755/17.

GAIRSOPPA
(torpedoed ? 15/2)

Your 1730/14. (Survivor GAIRSOPPA fit to be interrogated) Cause, Time, date and position of sinking. No other known survivors.
(D.T.D. 1738/17, to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

KORSHAMN

Have picked up 11 survivors from Swedish ship KORSHAMN. (6373 tons).
(NORTHERN FOAM, 1810/17, to S.O.T.N.P.)
KORSHAMN was in Convoy H.X.112, bound from New York to Liverpool with cargo of steel, general and special. Believed to have been torpedoed. (D.S. 560).

TAPANOELI

Following has been read.
SSS 15. 56 N., 20. 49 W. TAPANOELI torpedoed.
(Freetown, T.O.R. 2042N/17) TAPANOELI, Dutch, 7051 tons, was in convoy S.L.68, bound from Batavia to Clyde with general cargo. Position about 110' E. of Cape Verde Is. (D.S. 560).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.3.1941. Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0223.	About 60° N., 12° W., indefinite position (D.S. 559).
0034.	52° N., 27° W. indefinite position (Italian) (D.S. 559).
0925.	58° - 59° N., 23° - 25° W. indefinite position (Italian) (D.S. 559).
0729.	41° N., 17° W., very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 559).
0920.	53.30 N., 18° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 559).
0347.	Vicinity of Canary Islands, very indefinite (D.S. 559).
1114) 1412)	53° - 54° N., 18° - 20° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 560).
2334	55° - 56° N., 20° 22° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 560).
2126) 2155) 2317)	Cape Verde Islands area, very indefinite (German) (D.S. 560).
1707.	189° N., 10° W., indefinite (German) (D.S. 560).
Iceland.	Ref. my 0.637, 16/3. Patches of oil not seen at mouth of Isafjordurdjup. Patches observed 65° 17' N., 23° 40' W. and 65° 28' N., 24° 22' W. (C.O.C., Iceland Force, 1000/17, to W.O.).
Canary Is.	D/F bearings indicate a second U Boat may be operating S.W. of Canary Islands. (F.O.C.N.A. 1105/17, to N.A. Stn.).
1420.	Enemy S/M sighted bearing 233° distance 8 miles from 15.15 N., 21.03 W. endeavouring to escape on surface course 230°. (CROCUS, 1420/17, to C.in C. S.A.). Ref. Admty. Message A.F. 015° 15' N. 022° 03' W. 1420/17. (C.in C. S.A., 2322/17, to G.B.M.S. 6A) Note: According to CROCUS 1420/17, position should be 21.03 W., not 22.03.

/ 1707. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.3.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1707. By D/F at 1707/17 position of enemy submarine 49° N. 10° W. indefinite fix. Probably returning to base. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1833/17, to KENYA) (F.O.S., 1934/17 to L.27).

2126. D/F at 2026 G.M.T. indicate SL 68 or HG 56 is being shadowed by U/B. (Bearings) (D.D.I.C. 2206/17, to F.O.C.N.A. C.in C. S.A., MALAYA, FOLKESTONE).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1422/17).

Submarines Attacked.

By WALKER. Unknown number of ships of H.L. (corrupt group) have been torpedoed. Have attacked submarine which was sighted on surface and submerged 100 (? group missing) ahead of me. Heavy explosions accompanied by a red flash occurred 2½ minutes after last charge was dropped. Am remaining in vicinity until daylight. (WALKER, 0157/17, to C.in C. W.A.).

By VANOC. Rammed and sunk submarine. (VANOC, 0332/17, to C.in C. W.A.).

U/B Survivors in WALKER and VANOC. (WALKER, 0649/17 - see Ships Attacked). My 0620 (? 0649/17 intended) From prisoners account it now seems possible they represent survivors of three submarines sunk. (WALKER, 0840/17, to C.in C. W.A.). Report without delay name or number of submarine sunk, if known. (C.in C. W.A. 0942/17 to VANOC, WALKER). Your 0942/17. U 100, U 99 and one other, probably U 29. (WALKER, 1115/17, to C.in C. W.A.) Congratulating WALKER and VANOC on destruction of U-boats. (D. A/S W., 1416/17, 1417/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boats

E-Boats were reported near Convoy F.N. 34 off the Suffolk and Norfolk Coasts between 2113/17 and 0106/18 and were engaged by the convoy escorts.
At 0226/18 SS DAPHNE II (French) was torpedoed off Cromer.

Watch for German Battle Cruisers

NELSON and NIGERIA were S.W. of the Faeroes this afternoon, moving north-westward. It is assumed that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU are returning to the North Sea and that BISMARCK (whose whereabouts is at present not known) is to escort them in and that the Germans know the whereabouts of RODNEY and to a lesser extent of KING GEORGE V.
The latter was yesterday ordered to proceed at best speed to cover a wave of ships originally belonging to Convoy O.B. 295 but now proceeding independently mean course 210° from within 100 miles of 56° N., 35° W., at 1200/16.

HOOD is to cancel her full power trial and if necessary, her full calibre shoot and with QUEEN ELIZABETH (who completed full power trials and firing practices today) and NORFOLK in company is to proceed to 60° N., 11° W., with destroyer escort.

At 0213 today D/F analysis (unreliable) indicated a unit, probably SCHEER in 26° N., 19° W., and at 1310 a unit in 50° N., longitude indefinite possibly 23° W.
THUNDERBOLT is joining H.X. 115 for as long as possible before returning to Halifax, and KING GEORGE V is also to join H.X. 115 if possible, on her way to Scapa.

U-Boat Campain

SS CLAN MACIVER was unsuccessfully attacked today in the N.W. Approaches.

A U-Boat was reported by an aircraft at 1826 near No 5 Buoy (2 miles East of Yarmouth) A German aircraft was near at hand.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Watch for German Battle Cruisers

Two aircraft from Iceland today carried out extended patrols in Denmark Strait.

Beauforts of Coastal Command sank by torpedo a 5000 ton ship in a convoy off Borkum today.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked the Naval shipyards at Bremen and other targets.

Enemy Air Activity

Warning has been given to shipping that enemy aircraft when attacking may burn navigation lights.

Dutch tanker IRIS was attacked today west of Bardsay Island and was set on fire.

Mining

The clearance sweep between Dungeness and Beachy Head has been completed.

Belgium M.V.,EMINENT was mined and sunk this afternoon in the Bristol Channel.

Further S.A. mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary off Spurn Point.

The Clyde above Greenock is closed from sunset today to 1300 tomorrow, except for short local moves after 0730 when sweepers have passed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Routeing of Shipping

Until further orders merchant vessels are to be routed to the westward of the Cape Verde Is., owing to the raider situation.

Today's merchant ship plot shows that between 14° S and 20° S there are 14 ships proceeding to the Cape in a definite 60 mile wide lane. In future, ships in this area are to be spread over a belt of at least 500 miles.

Operation "Summer"

FURIOUS and DRAGON left Freetown this morning with DUNCAN and FOXHOUND to fly off aircraft to Takoradi.

Convoy S.L. 68.

It still appears that Convoy S.L. 68 is being shadowed by U-Boat. CLAN MACNAB in this convoy was sunk today in collision E.N.E. of Cape Verde Is.

Mediterranean

F.A.A. Sink a ship

Three F.A.A. Albacores attacked with torpedoes last night shipping at Buerat El Hsun and sank a ship of 1500 tons.

Air Attack on Durazzo

Seven Wellingtons last night dropped 17,250 lbs of bombs on Durazzo docks.

ROSAURA (Armed Boarding Vessel) was sunk by mine p.m. today when leaving Mersa Tobruk.

East Indies

Vizagapatam is being made a defended port.

MOST SECRET.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MAPLIN. — Your 1328/15. Every effort will be made to advance completion of J.3997 to 3rd May provided as follows.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1126/18).

Movements.

HOLDERNESS.
VANESSA. — Slip as soon as ready and proceed to Dover by (route).
(C.in C. Nore, 1534/18 to HOLDERNESS).
Destroyers are to sail by Edinburgh Channel adjusting speed where mines are suspect.
1st M.S.F. is to meet destroyers at No.10 Buoy and sweep them through 313 QZX.
After passing longitude 0° 00'W., destroyers should pass through 50° 30'N., 0° 20'W., thence to Portsmouth by 169 QZS.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1601/18 to C.in C. Nore).
My 1534. After passing Dover proceed by QZS 208 to arrive No.10 buoy at 2215, where fleet sweepers meet you and sweep you through 313 WZX. Thence proceed to pass through following positions, to Portsmouth by QZS 169 and 111. Adjust speed to arrive Nab Tower 0630.
(C.in C. Nore, 1720/18 to HOLDERNESS)
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2355/18).
C.in C. Nore's 1720/18. Amend Route as follows to arrive Nab Tower 0630.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 2243/18 to HOLDERNESS).

Sailing of 3rd M.L.F. to Gibraltar. — My 1146/15. For 21st March read 26th March.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1804/18).

FERNIE
CLEVELAND. — You are to pass through position 180° Portland 20 miles thence 180° Anvil 06 . miles and enter by Needles 0730. Informati of own forces likely to be met.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1853/18 to FERNIE).

MOST SECRET.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

DAPHNE II.
(Convoy F.N.34)
torpedoed
by E/Boat.

(British, 1970 tons). Torpedoed and sinking at 59 buoy. Trawler KINGSTON OLIVINE attempting to tow to Humber. Chance to salvage goods. 26 survivors, to date.
(VERSATILE 0226/18).
Torpedoed by E/Boat near 59 Buoy at about 0220 today. Now in tow of Trawler KINGSTON OLIVINE proceeding Humber. 26 survivors in Trawler, one injured on board VERSATILE, 1 wounded, man trapped below.
(C.in C. Nore, 0801/18, VERSATILE, 0857/18).
Tug HEADMAN departed Hull 0920 to assist DAPHNE.
(F.O. Humber, 0935/18).
Ship is being beached in Humber.
(Grimsby Base, 1828/18 Lt. Pearson, Grimsby), (2230/18).
Re survivors.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1645/18, Grimsby Base, 2236/18).

Boat
ANNA.

Following 1940/17 received from PYTCHLEY. Have picked up 7 Dutchmen who sailed from Holland in their boat ANNA. Have retained survivors on board. Trawler is taking boat to Yarmouth.
(C.in C. Nore, 0753/18).

M.G.B's
with
Patrol O.

Weather permitting available M.G.B's are to operate with patrol O tonight as ordered by D.16.
(C.in C. Nore, 1101/18 to BEEHIVE).

Patrol O.

Patrol O. With all available M.G.B's is to be at Sheringham light buoy at 2200 today and thence proceed to No.5 buoy by QZS 52 and 40 manœuvring so as to cover passage of F.S.38 and endeavouring to intercept possible E/Boats.

After passing No.5. buoy patrol O is to cover F.S.38 until arrival at Aldeburgh Light Float.
(C.in C. Nore, 1106/18 to D.16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

C.in C. Nore's 1106/18. Intend to sail WORCESTER and WHITSHED at 1630 to R/V with M.G.B. 60 and 64 at 52 buoy at 1815. Speed 25 knots. Request fighter protection. (Capt: D.16 1253/18).

ARGUS. (Operation "Winch").

Admiralty 1346/12 and my 1144/17. Two Skuas and four Hurricanes only have so far arrived Abbots Inch for embarkation in ARGUS. Understand remaining aircraft are unlikely to reach Abbots Inch 18/3, owing to unfavourable weather. (ARGUS, 1136/18).

STEGEHOLM.

Swedish STEGEHOLM leaves Goteborg for New York at 1200/19 routed as follows.

2. Ship should not be molested but should be stopped and examined at Skopenfiord. (D.O.D.(H) 1852/18).

Convoys F.N.33. and F.N.34. CATTISTOCK COTTESMORE VESPER engagements with E/Boats on 17/3.

Following receiver begins:- Addressed C.in C. Nore from D.21.
A. At 2305, CATTISTOCK in 52° 40' N., 2° 03' E., zig-zagging at 24 knots 3 miles ahead of convoy F.N.33 sighted 3 E/Boats which were stopped at 1200 yards range. E/Boats retired making smoke and were engaged with pom-pom as soon as star-shell became effective. Contacts lost at Hearty Knoll after range had been opened to 6,000 yards and all forward star-shell (40 rounds) had been expended. No result of gunfire observed.

B. COTTESMORE and VESPER unsuccessfully engaged 2 E/Boats from 2110 to 2123. I E/Boat had been sighted 11 miles North of No.5. Buoy and this retired to Eastward. During chase second E/Boat was sighted also retiring.

C. CAMPBELL zig-zagging in the rear of the convoy at high speed had no sightings. 1650/18 Ends.

Signals received from PYTCHLEY and VERSATILE

/show

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations(Cond.)

Convoys F.N.33 and F.N.34. CATTISTOCK COTTESMORE VESPER engagements with E/Boats on 17/3. (Contd.)	show that other E/Boats attacked F.N.34, torpedoing French S.S. DAPHNE near number 59 buoy about 0200/18. (C.in C. Nore, 1920/18).
Western Channel Patrol.	Sailed KELLY KELVIN JACKAL. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1958/18).
Bay of Biscay. Temporary Submarine Patrol Zone.	Cancel my 1512/9/12/40. A. With a view to intercepting enemy vessels the morning after they leave or the evening before they arrive at Biscay ports, the following temporary patrol zones are established. It must be particularly noted that part of these zones is outside the area in which ships may be attacked without warning. B. Bay of Biscay North. Limits. Between Latitudes 46° 30'N., 47° 48'N., and East of 08° W. Bay of Biscay South. Limits. South of latitude 46° 30'N., and east of a line joining 46° 30'N., 08° W. and 43° 25'N., 02° 55'W. C. Spanish territorial waters are under no circumstances to be violated. (F.O.S. 2019/18 to S.3. S.5.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Interception of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

A. Assuming SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU are returning to North Sea.

B. We have lost sight of BISMARCK and though W/T traffic on Norwegian Coast has not been abnormal it is possible BISMARCK may be used to escort SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU past Iceland.

C. Germans know whereabouts of RODNEY and to a lesser degrees, of KING GEORGE V.

D. HOOD is to cancel full power trial and if necessary the full calibre shoot.

E. Subject to any orders received from C.in C. H.F. HOOD, QUEEN ELIZABETH and NORFOLK are to proceed in company to 60° N., 11° W. B.C. One to inform C.in C. H.F. time at which this position will be reached.

F. C.S.18 to detail destroyers escort for HOOD and QUEEN ELIZABETH.
(1st S.L. 2337/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Air patrols today Tuesday:-
HORNLI FAIR STAB UNST.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0854/18.).
Patrol PIRATE (Anti E-Boat) Pirate One.
Four A/C of 235 sqdn. are to take departure from Lowestoft. To take up positions at 1630 on an endless chain patrol through the following four points:-
Patrol to be flown for 1½ hours in a clockwise direction No. 1 aircraft starting at the first named position the remaining three at equal distances round the patrol.
Pirate Two.
Four A/C of 59 squadron are to take departure from Lowestoft to take up positions at 1800 on a similar endless chain patrol for two hours through the following four points. (Chatham 1050/18.).
Request 98 Squadron maintain continuous patrol from Kaldardanaes through 63° 30' N., 25° W., to 30° West W.E.F. daylight 19/3. Object to intercept enemy raiders. (H.Q.C.C. 1220/18, to Air Ministry.).
(War Office 1230/18 to G.O.C. Iceland.).
Air Patrol arranged to cover Denmark Strait tomorrow is as follows:-
Line patrol leaving Kaldardanes at daylight passing through; 63° 30' N., 25° 00' W., thence due West to 30° W. This Patrol will be flown until dusk. (A.C.N.S.H. 1559/18, to C. in C. H.F.).
Your 56997 (M.O.8). of 18/3.
Request information type of enemy raider 98 Squadron is to search for. Of six available aircraft one now out of action at Melgerdi in north one crashed taking off for patrol on 17/3. Two of these carried out very extended patrols today in Denmark Straits. Nothing to report. Subject to weather conditions and condition of runway I will try to carry out two patrols tomorrow over area indicated. Probable time over area 0800 - 1200 hours and 1300 - 1600 hours. (G.O.C. Iceland 1608/18. to War Office.).
Carry out further patrol on 18/3.
(War Office, desp. 1640/17 to G.O.C. Iceland
Patrol R.3 will be flown throughout daylight 19th and patrol R.1 from daylight for about five hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 1742/18.).

/My 1559/18.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Patrols.

My 1559/18. Patrol will be flown from 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1600 only. (A.C.N.S.H. 2010/18 to C. in C. H.F.).
Enemy warships probably battle-cruisers. Wire whether times of patrols are Iceland time or G.M.T. (War Office 2050/18 to G.O.C. Iceland.).
Following is a repetition of my 1728/18, begins: F.O. Iceland from C. in C. Rosyth. Following patrol known as R 3 has been instituted, Cross over by Sunderland aircraft between following positions 062° 01' N., 014 49' W.063° 12' N. 015° 47' W. 063° 19'N., 015° 10' W. 062° 08' N., 014° 10' W. Signal will be made when it is flown. It is being flown tomorrow Wednesday. Ends. (C. in C. Rosyth 2310/18 to F.O. Iceland.).

Escorts.

Escorting Blenheim returned owing to weather. Will return to you if weather improves. (C. in C. Rosyth 0956/18 to 5th M/S. F.).
Request Escort for 1 capital ship, 3 destroyers, 1700/18 till dark /18.
D. Inchkeith to May Island passing May Island 2000/18. northward.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1530/18 to H.Q.F.C.).
My 1430/17. No air escort available tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 1720/18, to R.A.M.L.).

Air Decoys.

Your 2003/17/3. Concur.
(A.C.O.S. 1139/18, to Adty.).

Identification of A/C by Ships.

Following instructions to come into force at 0001/19. (C. in C. W.A. 1226/18.).
<u>See Lion Copy</u>.

/Iceland.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.3.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Iceland. Operation Areas for No.30 Wing.	AP865 18/3 reference establishment of No.30 Wing in Iceland proposed. Provisional areas for operation of aircraft of this wing under 18 Group are as follows. These boundaries will be subject to revision in conformity with trade protection requirements when flying boat unit is located at Reyjavik. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/18 to 18 Group.).
Operation G.U.	My 2033/16 and 1334/18. Request bombing restrictions. (C. in C. Plymouth 1404/18 to H.Q.C.C.).
LUDLOW ROXBOROUGH ST. CLAIR.	Regret unable to locate or get into W/T touch with the three TOWN class destroyers after a 90 minute flight. (N.A.S.Roborough 1510/18 to Capt.D.).
Air Search.	Hudson A/C leaves Wick at first light for 61° 15' N., 11° 45' W., to search vicinity and then in N.N.E. direction for 3 M/Vs torpedoed night of 16/17. (C. in C. Rosyth 1946/18.).
Bremen. Wilhelmshaven. Rotterdam Emden. Texel. Flushing. Helder	Day 17/3. Nine Blenheims set out to attack shipping off the Frisian Islands and Dutch Coast, but targets were not located largely due to fog. One aircraft using cloud cover attacked petrol storage at Flushing. Night 17/18 March. Twenty one Wellingtons, 3 Whitleys and 16 Hampdens attacked Deutsche Werke Shipyard. Attacked by one Blenheim. Two Blenheims attacked docks at Emden and aerodrome at Texel. Two Whitleys attacked docks at Den Helder and Emden. (H.Q.B.C. 2000/18.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.3.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

REYKJABORG. — There is strong evidence that Icelandic Trawler REYKJABORG 685 tons has been sunk by enemy action. Ship now 6 days overdue and bullet ridden raft clearly marked REYKJABORG has been picked up off Hebrides by Icelandic Trawler LAVORDUR. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1258/18.).

Convoys E.N.Odd, ROOKY LANCET. — I Enemy A/C shadowing Convoy. My position 57° 4' N. 1° 51' W. (FOWEY, 1350/18).
Fighters are being sent to Convoy Odd numbered E.N. Convoy and ROOKY.
(More W/T 1415/18).
Fighters are being sent to assistance of odd numbered E.N. Convoy and to call sign LANCET. (C.in C. Rosyth 1550/18 to FOWEY).

Lights on A/C's — Warning re enemy a/c's burning navigation lights when attacking merchant ships and therefore regarded as friendly.
(D.T.D. 1353/18)
See Shipping and Convoys.

IRIS. — (Dutch Tanker, 3887 tons) S.O.S. in about 52° 45' N. 5° W. Fire on board. Time bomb on board. Chief Mate seriously injured. (Plymouth W/T 1624/18).
Position Bardsey Tower 82° about 6 miles. Please send assistance for wounded chief mate. (Plymouth W/T 1658/18).
Time bomb overboard. (Plymouth W/T 1701/18).
Steaming toward Bardsey Isles.
(Plymouth W/T 1706/18).
Following received begins. S.S. IRIS from Seaforth Radio. Assistance is being sent. 1827 ends. (SUFFOLK 1954/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

EINAR JARL — (Norwegian, 1858 tons) Sunk by Aerial torpedo at 2050/17 in 56° 17 1/2 N. 2° 18' W. Crewlanded Aberdeen one Greek lost. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1625/18).

/ MELMORE HEAD
(bombed 26/2) ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

MELMORE HEAD (Bombed 26/2)	Intend sailing damaged MELMORE HEAD in tow of tug SUPERMAN for Belfast at 1800/19 to arrive about 0900/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1745/18).
LADY LILIAN	(A/S Trawler) Arrived ST. APOLLO with 26 survivors from LADY LILIAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1930/18). LADY LILIAN sunk at 1000/16 in 54° 18' N. 12° 10' W. Details of the two attacks by probable F.W. H.M. Trawlers KING SOL and ST. APOLLO in company, former attacked and damaged. (Capt. D. Greenock 2210/18).
Clyde Air Raid Damage.	My 2116/17. Present situation. River open to traffic at stated times only to allow of sweeping operations. No further damage to shipping reported. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2235/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.U.	My 1313/18. Sailed. INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 0152/18). My 2033/16. Amendment. Forces taking part 20th D.F. Position amended. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1020/18). See Operations Volume. Operation Orders. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1334/18, and D.20, 1411/18). See Operations Volume. Your 1411/18. Concur. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1716/18 to D.20). Your 1411/18. Concur. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2038/18 to D.20).
Thames Estuary.	Six S.A. Mines detonated today as follows. Details. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 0941/18), (1550/18, 1902/18).
Iceland. British Mines dealt with.	My 1900/16 and my 1725/28/2. Confirmation now obtained that mine exploded 9/8. One mine ashore, another sighted, three mines sunk. Positions. All the mines British Mark X X except first unknown. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1800/18).
Clyde.	River above Great Harbour Greenock closed to navigation from sunset/18 to 1300/19. except for short local moves after 0730 when sweepers have passed. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1805/18).
Spurn Point.	The following mine was exploded by L.L. Trawlers at 1109/18. (F.O. Humber, 1837/18).
Dungeness Clearance Sweep.	Area given in Admiralty 2003/11 cleared from Northern limit to line joining the following positions. One mine cut in approximate position 50° 45'54"N., 000° 45' 33" E. at 1540/18. One sweep parted with very strong indication of Static cutter two cables south of this position. (S.O. 1st M/S.F. 1927/18 and 2203/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation B.S.52.

Particulars. To be carried out by TEVIOT BANK, on date arranged by C.in C. Nore.
(V.C.N.S. 1241/18).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.

One enemy War Motor Boat bearing 240, distance one mile, course unknown, my position 080 Lowestoft HD 12 miles.
(COTTESMORE, 0106/18).
Two enemy war motor boats position 53° 59'N., 1° 19'E.
(PYTCHLEY 0231/18).
My 0231 Enemy's course 180 degrees.
(PYTCHLEY 0246/18).
Suspected E/Boat vicinity Sunk Light Vessel, steering, northwards 2200.
(C.in C. Nore, 2211/18).

Unknown ship in Iceland Faroes Passage.

Unidentified ship in 063° 37'N., 011° 18'W. at 1215 steering 070° Black funnel with broad white bands. Light grey hull. Two masts. Finland Flag on side.
(SCOTT 1218/18).

German Main Units. BREMEN EUROPA.

PRU Sortie H573 (at 1335/18) shows in Kiel BISMARCK no longer present. Now present one Hipper cruiser alongside. LEIPZIG dry docked, LUTZOW at entrance to construction basin. TIRPITZ still absent from Wilhelmshaven and no other major naval units present. No major units Brunsbuttel or Cuxhaven. Bremerhaven liner BREMEN smoking at positions near bow and stern and probably burnt out amidships between funnels. Fire probably under control. Also burning is partially dismantled hull in Kaiser Haven. Liner EUROPA still present as well as two destroyers and one T/B.
(PRU Benson, 1920/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Result of reconnaissance today.
Kiel. HIPPER class cruiser alongside.
LEIPZIG in dock.
LUTZOW alongside.
BISMARCK Class Battleship has left Kiel since 13/3. Wilhelmshaven. No main units present.
(D.D.I.C. 2145/18).

E/Boats etc.)

In 52° 28'N., 3° 45'E at 1655/17. 7 "E" Boats course due West at full speed, 1 leader and two lines of 3 astern. Off Texel, 0528/18 hours, a large convoy of 25 ships steady course south west 8/10 knots, Convoy preceeded by two ships of about 5,000 tons line abreast with lights on stern. Remainder of convoy scattered. Juist, 5 miles North 0434/18 and also 5 miles North of Norderney 0511/18 6/7 ships moving slowly East in scattered formation of oval shape.
(H.Q.B.C. 2000/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Route.

Route RUBY (West of Cape Verde) D.T.D. 0009/18 and 1914/18 to G.B.M.S.1, 6A, and 9). W.R. Note. Read in conjunction with C.in C. South Atlantic, 1231/18).

Route W. of Cape Verde.

My 1905/6/1. Following signal has been made by G.B.M.S. to ships in areas 1, 6a and 9. (Begins) Route RUBY (Ends) Until further orders route to be followed is to be westward of Cape Verde Islands. (D.T.D. 0011/18 to H.G.47 etc.)

Enemy A/C's burning lights.

In recent night air attacks on merchant ships aircraft have been burning navigation lights. This has been regarded in ships as an indic tion that the aircraft were friendly. Attention of Masters is to be drawn to A.M.S.I.229 para.9. (D.T.D. 1353/18 to A.I.G. 47).

Destinations.

Primary cause of two recent disasters to ships was that ports at which they called for onward routeing were ignorant of their destinations. While entering port to wait for routes ships uncessarily traversed dangerous waters. This risk cannot be avoided unless the onward destination of a ship is ascertained in advance of arrival. Any case of doubt should be referred to Trade Division. These instructions apply particularly to Barry, Milford Haven, Oban, Aultbea and Methil. (D.T.D. 1354/18 to A.I.G. 47).

Routeing.

Today's Merchant ship plot shows that between 14° S. and 20° S. there are 14 ships proceeding to the Cape in a definite sixty mile wide lane. This unimaginative routeing, especially dangerous at present, is to cease forthwith and ships in this area spread over a belt of at least 500 miles. (D.T.D. 1700/18 to N.C.S.O's Oban and Clyde

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

General.
(Contd.)

Irish Sea Independent ships.

Cancel my 1710/14 and substitute. Independently routed ships proceeding South through Irish Sea at less than 15 knots and bound South of Liverpool are to signal by W/T to C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. Plymouth in P.L. their estimated time of crossing 53° 46'N. This signal should be made when passing the Mull of Cantire in the form "Crossing parallel" followed by estimated time (B.S.T.). Object of this procedure is to facilitate provision of A/A escort.
(D.T.D. 1822/18 to C.in C's etc.)

Prohibited area, W.Atlantic.

Cancel my 1933/16/1, and substitute. Westbound shipping is to be routed outside a prohibited area enclosed by lines joining the following positions.
A.42.00N., 60.00W. B.43.10 N., 60.00W.
Y. 42.30N., 50.00W. Z. 40.40N., 50.00W.
Ships bound for St. John (N.B.) and U.S. ports are to be routed South of this area. Ships for Halifax should be routed North of this area but South of Sable Is. to avoid field ice.
Amend N.C.S.I. 167.
(D.T.D. 2236/18 to C.in C's W.A. Portsmouth etc.)

MOST SECRET.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

STIRLINGSHIRE. Steam Trawler HELGI reported at 1400/17 that she has on board a dinghy marked Stirlingshire, Glasgow found 46 miles N. by W. ½ W. from Barrow Head. (F.O.Iceland 1137/18).

BARRHEAD. Your 1147/17 approved. (D. of Salvage 1533/18 to F.O.Iceland).

BONNY HEATHER. (Harbour Service Motor Boat). Destroyed by fire and sunk last night. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1635/18).

PANOPE. (Balloon Barrage Yacht). Not arrived from Inverness. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1650/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Spanish MARQUES DE COMILLES	Cancel my 1802/15. No action required vide W P P S 216. (F.O.C.N.A. 0822/18 to N.A. Station)
ANTARKTIS	German tanker sailed during last night. (Consul, Vigo 0950/18) Informing authorities concerned. (D.D.I.C., 2214/18 to C. in C., W.A., etc.)
ASAKU MARU	My 1227/16. Bilbao reported due to sail 1800/17. (D.D.I.C. 1030/18 to N.A. Station) ASAKU MARU was in approx. 44° N., 08° W. at 1527/18. (D.D.I.C., 1824/18 to N.A. Stn.)
French Warship	One French Cruiser FANTASQUE class p.c. and s 038° 49' N., 009° 32' W., 000° 20 knots (ALOUETTE 1520/18, to Admty etc.)
Operation "Ration"	Re date (F.O.C.N.A. 1650/18) See Operations Volume.
French Convoy	Passed French ships ARIZONA, CEVENNES, PLUTON escorted by French destroyers TEMPETE L'ALCYON, French Submarine Parent Ship JULES VERNE, and one submarine REQUIN class i 031° 22' N., 010° 02' W., 1600/18 south-bound. (MARSDALE 1800/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)
RUDOLF ALBRECHT German	A.1. report states preparing to leave Teneriffe almost immediately. (F.O.C.N.A. 2112/18 to N.A. Station)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

"Q" Report TEKOA	Ref. QQQQ message from TEKOA. Cancellation as received by Lands End Radio appears to be genuine. (D.C. 0150/18 to C. in C. S.A.)
Operation "Summer"	Sailed 0600/18. FURIOUS, DRAGON, DUNCAN and FOXHOUND for operation "Summer". (S.O.I., Freetown, 0727/18 to Admty.)
DALGOMA	Overdue shipping, my 1034/15. DALGOMA arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 0945B/18)
SIAM II	Your 1051/17.(Overdue Shipping) SIAM II at Freetown effecting repairs Hopes to sail 21/3. (S.O.I. Freetown 1142/18)
Shipping Diversion	My 1229/17. (Diversion of shipping due to raider situation) Your 0009/18 (See Shipping and Convoys) refers to ships in area 9 only. Is this the only action it is intended to take. (C. in C., S.A., 1231/18 to Admty.) Your 1231/18 A.M. 0009/18 was addressed to ships in Areas 1, 6a and 9. (D.T.D. 2227/18 to C. in C., S.A.)
DELHI Repairs	DELHI's 0952/16. Request you will arrange for port propellor to be changed at Simonstown before proceeding to U.S.A. Defective propellor is to be repaired and retained as spare for S.A. Station. (D.O.D. (F) 1302/18 to C. in C., S.A.) See also America and W. Indies.
REPULSE, operation.	REPULSE is to be ready by 0600Z/19 to proceed to Gibraltar for special operation. Further signal will be made. (D.O.D. (F) 1349/18 to C. in C., S.A.) Your 1349/18 REPULSE ready 0600Z/19 will be sailed on receipt of further instructions. (C. in C., S.A. 2031N/18 to Admty. Cancel my 1349/18 (D.O.D. (F) 2315/18)

/S.L. 68.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

S.L. 68 — Re U-Boat in touch with (C. in C., S.A., 2353/N/18) See U-Boat Campaign.

CLAN MACNAB — Following has been read. S.O.S. from CLAN MACNAB 17.13 N., 21. 22 W. Taking boats. (Bissau Radio, 1500/18)
CLAN MACNAB, British, 6076 tons, in Convoy S.L. 68, bound from Bombay to Clyde. (D.S. 561)

W.S. 7.
Water — Following is repetition of my 1709/17 (received undecypherable) Your 1933/15 If requirements for W.S. 7 do not exceed 6000 tons water can be supplied from local resources on this occasion. Do not consider satisfactory to employ tanker DAGEID unless absolutely necessary. (C. in C., S.A., 2301/18 to Admty.)

Mediterranean

TETRARCH
Defect — My 1227/25/2, 1601/27/2 and 0929/17/3 TETRARCH on patrol reports further defect. Ship has been recalled and should arrive Alexandria about 22nd/3. (Capt. S. 0243/18 to Admty.)
Your 2100/17 (Re fracture in starboard engine) Return to Alexandria immediately through following positions. (Capt. S. 1. 0257/18, to TETRARCH)

S.U. 2. — 0700 G.M.T./18. 10 ships (list) (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0909/18)

A.N. 21 — Port Said Section, 1030/18. 4 M.V.'s all for Piraeus. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1103/18)
Alexandria Section 1600/18. 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1625/18)

REGENT
Adriatic
Patrol — Commander (S) 1 1209/16. You are required to patrol Adriatic passing through Straits of Otranto night of 21/22-3. (Route) (Capt. S. 1. 1209/18 to REGENT)

/German....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

German NORBURG	Arrived Istanbul 17/3. (Galata, 1253/18)
A.S. 20.	1200/18 (5 ships, 2 Port Said, remainder Alexandria. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1310/18)
Tripoli Bombed	Night 16/17. Six Wellingtons dropped 11750 lbs bombs on Tripoli Harbour. Results. 17/3. Enemy bombed Benghazi at dawn. No damage or casualties.
Valona, Enemy warship hit.	Night 16/17. 1 Swordfish attacked shipping Valona with torpedo, hitting cruiser or destroyer with resulting large explosion.
Durazzo Shipping raided.	Further Swordfish attacked large quantity shipping Durazzo registering two hits and two probable hits. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1314/18)
A.G. 7.	1400/18. 8 M.V's. FIONA and CHAKLA, Military stores, All Piraeus. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1515/18)
F.A.A. Attacks Valona and Durazzo, 12/3 to 17/3.	My 0945/17. Following are results of attack by Swordfish of 815 Squadron from PARAMYTHIA. Night 12-13/3. Attack on Valona by 5 aircraft, one hit on 8000 ton ship, 2 hits not confirmed. One Swordfish lost. Lieut. Com. Jago and Lieut. Dare missing believed to be prisoners as Italians reported taking 2 prisoners. Night 14-15/3, 3 aircraft attacked Valona, one hit on liner of about 20,000 tons. Other torpedoes not observed but thought successful. Night 15-16/3, 3 aircraft on Valona, result not observed, one aircraft force landed on return. Night 16-17/3, Valona direct hit on cruiser or destroyer, large explosion. 4 aircraft on Durazzo, 2 confirmed hits 2 probable. Initial reconnaissance showed large number of ships in Valona, they now appear to have moved to Durazzo. Highly important to prevent enemy knowing whence these attacks are launched; consider therefore no communique should be issued. (C. in C., Med. 1520/18 to Admty.)
Aircraft Torpedoes	Asking for more so as to build up a reserve. (C. in C., Med. 1538/18)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta Report	Enemy reconnaissance by fighter patrols active throughout the day round Malta. One probable fighter patrol from Sicily searched area on route, S.E. of Malta. Bad weather interfered with interceptions outside the island. (H.Q.R.A.F., Med. 1620/18
Crews for Turkish S/M's and Destroyers under construction.	Turks intend to sail Turkish ship with crews for all submarines and destroyers from Iskanderun approx. 1/4. (N.A. Ankara, 1856/18)
Canal Situation	At 2000/18. Now considered probable only one live mine in Canal and that at km. 139.5 towards Asia Bank. Three motor vessels have arrived Great Bitter Lake from Suez. Intended to resume traffic both ways throughout length of Canal at daylight/19. Ships being swept past suspected mines. (S.B.N.O., Suez, 1935/18)
Suez Canal Mining.	Your 1949/27 and Admty. 1208/16. Disadvantages of underwater television (specified) Your 1252/14 and 1545/15, experiments with seismographs are already in hand. Further signal will be made if results of enquiries are promising. (D.T.M. 2120/18 to C. in C., Med.)
TRUANT PARTHIAN TETRARCH RORQUAL	Orders. (Capt. S.1. 2315/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Visagapatam

Being made a defended port. Precautionary measures will be a Naval liability. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0632Z/18 to Admty. amended 0625Z/19)

EMERALD
HECTOR
DURBAN
B.M. 5.

My 1126/3 and N.C.S.O. Bombay's 0903/17. EMERALD is to leave Colombo at 0200Z/20 and is to proceed to R.V. with HECTOR and B.M. 5 in 006° 30' 077° 35'.at 1030Z/20 EMERALD will relieve HECTOR as escort in above position. On relief HECTOR is to proceed to Colombo so as to arrive 0230Z/21.
EMERALD is to escort B.M. 5 until dark/23 and is then to proceed to Trincomalee so as to arrive A.M./25.
C. in C., China 0507/18. DURBAN will R.V. with EMERALD and B.M. 5 in 007° 10' 084° 55' at 0200Z/22 and will escort to Singapore. (C. in C., E.I., 1052/Z/18 to EMERALD, HECTOR)

Mogadishu

My 0538/13. One gun and rangefinder now ready for use. Two more guns will be ready in near future. (C. in C., E.I., 1100/18 to Admty.)

Shipping,
Guardafui
Socotra Channel

My 2006/1. With a view to speeding up shipping, cancel para. 6 and substitute Passage of Guardafui Socotra Channel. Selected ships sailing independently in either direction between Gulf of Aden and East Africa or Cape may be routed through this channel subject to Master agreeing. British ships should be governed by urgency passage and suitability of ship for navigating the channel particularly in S.W. Monsoon. (Ends)
The restriction that ships be routed within 120 miles E.?Coast of Italian Somaliland is withdrawn.
My 1416/2. Insert para 1 (c) Ships using Guardafui Socotra Channel are to burn dimmed navigation lights N. of 010° 30'. (C. in C., E.I., 1126Z/18)

/Scuttling.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Scuttling of Italian Ships — Your 0520/12. Not considered desirable to approach Italian Authorities and any mention of a guarantee should be avoided. Other methods of propaganda with same object are being employed. (Hd. of M. 1201/18 to C. in C., E.I.)

B.S. 20. — 1500 G.M.T./18. 7 M.V's for Aden, Colombo Abadan, Durban, Lourenco Marques and Detroit. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal 1705/18)

MANON — Your 0808/10. (Proposal to use ex Italian MANON for permanent supply work for supply work for Eritrea) Use of MANON agreed. (D.S.T. 2047/18 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

B.M. 4. — Convoy B.M. 4 arrived less Penang portion detached. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0437Z/18)

?RAMB II — By D/F fix Italian unit call sign one Y.R. in ? 020° N., 131° E., IIII G.M.T./17 Possibly Italian ship RAMB II (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0501Z/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3. 1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

DELHI — Will leave Simonstown for U.S.A. about 23/3 for refit and rearming with five 5" U.S.A. A/A. Principal defects. Please inform ship direct regarding port of refit. (D. of D., Bath, 0445/18 to N.A. Washington for Adm. French)

Vessels for Anti-U-Boat Operations — My 1501/17. Estimated adequate protection for convoys 3 additional long range flying boat squadrons of 12 aircraft each based Halifax Sydney and Botwood (N.F). None of additional requirements are available from Canada until late 1941 and amount that can then be supplied cannot be determined at present. Meantime would be grateful for further consideration to C.N.S.Canada's 1626/11/12/40 to Admty. (1st S.L.) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0948/18 to Admty.)

TALISMAN — Proceed forthwith to Halifax by following route. Keep good look out for survivors of ships sunk on 15/3. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1002/18 to TALISMAN)

Escorts for H.X. and S.C. Convoys — Your 0011/15. PORPOISE available for S.C. 26 but no S/M for H.X. 116. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is due to arrive Halifax 19/3. Subject to ship having no urgent defect propose she escorts H.X. 116 and S.C. 26 leaving Halifax a.m./22 and overtaking. Expect TRIBUNE to be available for H.X. 117 and possibly SURCOUF if 2 S/Ms are required in absence of capital ship. (B.S. 3 1217/18 to Admty.)

THUNDERBOLT — To join H.X. 115 and remain as long as possible, reporting before she joins the convoy her intentions.
R.A.(3) requested to inform THUNDERBOLT of probable movements of convoy. (1st S.L. 1359/18 to THUNDERBOLT, R.A. 3)

/KING GEORGE V.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

KING GEORGE V	Subject to no enemy information being received proceed to Scapa but you may refuel at Hvalfiord, Iceland, if necessary. On above basis it is desired you should first join H.X. 115 and escort convoy towards U.K. If you cannot join H.X. 115 report accordingly and join C. in C., H.F. as directed by him. (1st S.L. 1400/18 to K.G.V.)
RODNEY	Your 1945Z/12. RODNEY should part company with H.X. 114 on passing approx. 27° W., or earlier if fuel considerations so demand. After fuelling at Hvalfiord RODNEY is to return to Halifax for further escort duty. (D.O.D.,(H) 1401/18 to RODNEY)
VOLTAIRE	My 1156/16 (VOLTAIRE returned to harbour with fractured main steam pipe) Expect VOLTAIRE to arrive Trinidad at 1700 Q/24 (R.A. 3. B.S. 1451/18 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad)
Enemy Units	D/F analysis. Unreliable. (A) at 0213/18 unit in 26° N., 19° W., probably SCHEER reported in my 1516/17 (No trace in W.R.) (B) unit in 50° N., longitude indefinite possible 23° W., at 1300/18. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1611/18)
H.X. 115	Admty. 1359/18. and 1400/18 H.X. 115 escorted by CALIFORNIA should pass through 042° 50' 056° 12' at 1200Z/19 on a course 097° (Route) (R.A. 3 B.S. 1619/18 to THUNDERBOLT, KING GEORGE V)
Dispersal of O.B. Convoys	Your 1212/17. In view of variation in dispersal longitude it is proposed to advise you of date and position immediately after dispersal taking place. (D.T.D. 1705/18 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

/S.C. 26....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.3.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

S.C. 26 Escorts	Intend to sail WORCESTERSHIRE and PORPOISE on 20/3 as ocean escorts to convoy S.C. 26, both subsequently returning to Halifax. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1730/18 to Admty.)
PORPOISE	Encountered SS BRUNSWICK 12/3 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1755/18) See U-Boat Campaign.
SS BRUNSWICK chased by Submarine 12/3	My 1825/17. Submarine encountered was British PORPOISE. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1755/18 to Admty.)
THUNDERBOLT	A.M. 1359/18. If fuel does not permit your completing normal escort and returning direct to Halifax you should proceed to Reykjavik, Iceland, where fuel is available. (D.O.D. (H) 2014/18 to THUNDERBOLT)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

J.B. WHITE (torpedoed 16/3)	Your 1058/17. Crew of J.B. WHITE state they saw ship sink. (WALKER 0956/18).
H.X.112.	C.in C. W.A. 0107/18 (Request for destroyer to rendezvous with NORTHERN FOAM) NORTHERN FOAM not in position given. Intend searching and then rejoining convoy by dusk. Am unable to get in W/T touch with NORTHERN FOAM. (SHIKARI, 1152/18). Your 1150/12 latest position of NORTHERN FOAM 061° 12' N. 012° 11' W. drifting N.N.W. (C.in C. W.A., 1452/18, to SHIKARI). AMSTERDAM sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A.'s 2345/17 (To search for damaged ships ex H.X.112). (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1655/18).
BEDUIN	Norwegian 8136 tons, request you will sail Tug ST. OLAVES forthwith to assistance of stern half of Tanker BEDUIN in position 61° 02' N. 11° 53' W. at 1015 today. H.M.T. NORTHERN SKY standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1820/18, to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).
SCOTTISH STANDARD, (torpedoed 22/2)	Ref. report of interview with Captain Ward of SCOTTISH STANDARD dated 3/3/1941, request report from C.O. MONTGOMERY why no attempt was made to salve SCOTTISH STANDARD, observing a tanker in ballast is not easily sunk. (D.T.D. 1955/18 to C.in C. W.A.).
FERM (torpedoed 16/3)	No trace of Tanker at position indicated. Now dark. Resuming search at daybreak. (BRIGAND, 2120/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
CLAN MACIVER	Following received from Revolution Is. 2307 G.M.T. S.S. CLANMACIVER 58.01 N., 24.25 W. torpedoed 2300 G.M.T., strong signals bearing 087° uncalibrated (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2123/18). (W.R. Note:- Information already recd.). Following has been read. SSSS. CLAN MACIVER 58, 05 N. 24, 22 W. Torpedoed. (Lands End Radio, 2300/18). British, 4500 tons, had been in Convoy O.B.297. Bound from Glasgow to Table Bay with general cargo. (D.S. 561).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.3.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0020.)
1042.) 53° - 54° N., 18° - 20° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 560).

0037. 59.30 N., to 61° N., 20° - 22° W., indefinite (German) (D.S. 560).

0419. Western Atlantic, very indefinite (German) (D.S.560).

0222. Cape Verde Islands Area, very indefinite (German) (D.S. 560).

1826. 52° 29' N., 2° 5' E., U/B escorted by M.E.110 sighted by a/c. Possibly a rescue float. (D.S. 561).

1434. 53° N., 22° to 23° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 561).

2022. 58° N., 23° to 25° W. indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 561).

2142/17. Admty. message AF position 15° 56' N. 20° 49' W. at 2042/17 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0028/18 to G.B.M.S. Areas 6A and 1)

0001 Bearings indicate U Boat may be shadowing H.G.56 in approx. 035° N. 014° W. 0001/18.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0757/18, to EGRET) (D.C., 1107/18 to FOLKESTONE).
Your 1107/18. My 0757/18 was made as result of your 2206/17 and not as result of a bearing from Gibraltar. The position indicated was estimated position of H.G.56 at 0001/18.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1203/18, to Admty.).

0530. Following from Navy Dept. Bearings obtained at 0530 G.C.T./18 on a transmission 5660 kilocycles which from type of despatch and frequency is identified as a German submarine giving fix 32.00 N. 44.20 W. Fix determined by 2 bearings 13° Nayagansett and Chelcrauliege stations.
(N.A. Washington, 1840/18, to Admty. etc.).

1826. U/Boat reported by a/c vicinity No.5 buoy at 1826 A/S trawler PETER HENDRIKS carrying out search. (C.in C. Nore, 2033/18, to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
C.in C. Nore. 2033. Am proceeding now from Yarmouth Road to search. (SHEARWATER, 2140/18).

/ 1440. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.3.1941. Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1440. Following bearings of German U Boat at 1340/18 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 2036/18 to N.A. Station).

S.L.68. My 1335/16 and my 1711/17. U-Boat still appears to be in touch with S.L.68. Corvettes can now remain with convoy until about 0600/20 but no longer. Sunderlands (?could not) escort having to do engine overhaul. (C.in C. S.A., 2353N/18, to Admty.).

2125. Following bearings obtained German U Boat 2025/18 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 2358/18 to N.A. Station).

Estimated U/B dispositions. There may be more U/B's at sea than have been located. (D.D.I.C. 1406/18).

Submarines Attacked.

By WALKER 17/3. Your 1115/17. Is there any further evidence that you have three U-Boats' crews? (1st S.L. 1019/18, to WALKER).
Your 1019/18. Destruction of three U boats almost certain. Two U Boats were seen on the surface disabled after VANOC had rammed another. One sank alongside WALKER the other not seen to sink. Crews are very reticent. Information was obtained that five U Boats were operating together. (WALKER, 1256/18).
Your 1019/18. It is now established that survivors from 2 U Boats only have been picked up. It is still probable that 3 U Boats were destroyed. (WALKER 1616/18).

Mediterranean.

By VENDETTA VENDETTA attacking firm contact in 037° 29' N. 024° 05' E.
(CALCUTTA, 1715/18 to N.A. Athens)
(Sunderland co-operated. See H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1151/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Bearings indicating a German surface craft Halifax 037/1 were obtained at 1723 G.M.T. today.

HILARY and CORINTHIAN were ~~will~~ this evening ordered to proceed to patrol to intercept captured Norwegian Whale Factory ships or tankers which may be returning to French West ports. (OLE WEGGER, PELAGOS, SOLGLIMT and tanker SANDFJORD).

E/Boats were reported off the East Coas tonight, but up to midnight no interceptions by our ships occurred, though at 1906 an aircraft on patrol dropped a stick of bombs. on 4 E/Boats 36 miles East of Orfordness, without obtaining any hits.

British Air Activity.

Watch for German Battle Cruisers.

G.O.C. Iceland maintained continuous patrol of the Denmark Straits during daylight today. Only four of his 6 available aircraft are fit to fly; Air patrol between Iceland and Scotland was also carried out today.

Bomber Command last night attacked the Petroleum Harbour, at Rotterdam, and shore targets at Kiel and Wilhelmshaver

The daily patrol over Stavanger Aerodrome (see 22/2/41) has been discontinued.

Air escort was provided for convoys in the N.W.Approaches during daylight. A/S and A/A patrols were flown in the Irish Sea and off the west coast of Scotland.

Urgent steps are being taken to increa the aircraft covering the N.W. Approaches.

MOST SECRET.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Air Raid on London.

HELVELLYN (Small A/A ship) was sunk on even keel by air attack at 2300 in Surrey Commercial Dock.

Convoy O.B.298 was attacked this morning about 130 miles W.N.W. of Blacksod Bay. S.S. BENVORLICH was sunk and TEMPLE INN and Dutch tanker MAMURA were damaged but continued with the convoy.

S.S. LEO (Norwegian) was bombed and apparently sunk this morning in 59° N., 7° 29'W. after parting company with Convoy E.N.86A.

Mining.

Operation S.N.69.

No airescort was available today for the forces returning from this operation. R.A.M.L. reported the operation completed at 1410/19.

Mining of Thames Estuary.

Heavy objects possibly mines were dropped by aircraft in the Thames Estuary today. Several mines were detonated. S.S. TOTTENHAM and PARRACOMBE were damaged in Southend Anchorage by mines being swept up by mine sweepers.

Mine laying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected off the East Coast between Norfolk and Flamborough Head.

The Humber was closed at 1220 and reopened after sweeping at 1735.

MOST SECRET.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U/Boat attacks on convoy S.L.68.	Dutch S.S. MANDALIKA in Convoy S.L.68 was torpedoed at 0140 120 miles N.E. of Sal (Cape Verde Islands); CALENDULA, one of the escorting vessels fired at a submarine on the surface about noon. The convoy was ordered to make a drastic alteration of course tonight; there are indications that a U/Boat is reporting, the position of the convoy.

Mediterranean.

R.A.F. and F.A.A. Attack Tripoli.	Wellingtons bombed Tripoli last night Nine Swordfish of F.A.A. attacked Tripoli from 0140 to 0145 today, dropping 5500 lbs of bombs and 5 mines. Damage was caused ashore and a direct hit was scored on a merchant vessel in harbour. One bomber Swordfish failed to return.
Suez Canal.	The Canal was reopened today.
	Six aircraft bombed the landing ground at Benghazi before dawn today. No damage was caused.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

REYKJABORG Probably sunk and her Visa in enemy hands.

Your 1258/18. Suggest colour of visa be changed. (D.T.D. 1244/19 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.
Icelandic trawler REYKJABORG probably sunk and identifying certificate number 316 with visa number 608 issued 8/3 may be in enemy hands. (F.O.C.N.P. 1453/19)

H.G. Convoy Escorts

My 0932/4 para (a) Propose to add "S/M will hoist red flag on mast 15 minutes before diving". OLYMPUS has been so directed. (S. 8 1612/19 to F.O.S.) No objection (F.O.S., 1239/20)

With holding A/A Fire by M/V's in Convoy

Your 1119/19. Following is repetition text my secret postagram 1249/14 begins:- A.A. Guard report that at convoy conference at Southend Masters are being advised to with hold fire until escort vessels open fire. This does not seem right. A.A. Guard also report two cases of aircraft attacking with navigation lights burning. Ends. (EXCELLENT 1649/19)

Aircraft for N.W. Approaches

Urgent steps being taken to increase aircraft covering North-Western Approaches so units in Iceland are being augmented as early as possible. New Squadrons will be under Coastal Command for Operations. In event of invasion of Iceland all Air Forces available may be employed as necessary in furtherance of your Defence Plans. (W.O. 1925/19 to G.O.C., Iceland)

URD. (Norwegian)

N.O.I.C Aberdeen's 1927/19 is passed to you for information. F.O.S. and N.O's I/C Rosyth Command have been instructed to arrest this vessel should she arrive in any of their ports. (C. in C., Rosyth 2137/19 to D.N.I.)
Scottish Command suggests URD should be arrested if identified URD presumed to have left Norway 17/2 or after with Pro Nazi Norwegians bent on sabotage in this country. URD ex MARS according to Lloyds is Swedish 1008 tons a.m. 19/3.
(N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1927/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Nore. Reference Nore No 1234/0803.J.7/1 of 17/3 paras 6 and 7. It is now learnt that the battalion in the Isle of Sheppey is being withdrawn and its place taken by the battalion now in the Hoo Area. No replacement is at present forthcoming for the battalion at Hoo so that the situation is worse than as originally reported. (C. in C., Nore, 1040/19)

Movements

HOLDERNESS
VANESSA — Cancel my 2355. C. in C. Portsmouth's 2243 is to stand. (D.M.S. 0046/19)

RESOLUTION — Admty's 2052/13.
1. It is anticipated that RESOLUTION will be ready to leave dockyard hands on 28/3
2. The following programme is then intended.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1321/19)

EDINBURGH — Intend to sail from Scapa in EDINBURGH with SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MATABELE and MASHONA at 1100/20 for Greenock. Speed of advance 18 knots. E.T.A. of destroyers 0730/21. (F.O.C., 18th C.S. 2155/19)

Operations

Operation BARBARIC — This operation may be carried out when weather conditions permit. (1st S.L. 0006/19 to V.A.Dover)
Cancel my 1507. (V.A.Dover 1612/19 to A.O. C. in C.CC.
Operation BARBARIC is cancelled and orders concerning it are to be destroyed by fire.
(V.A.Dover 1628/19)

/Interception..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Interception of GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST

A.M. 2337/18. Delete all reference to NORFOLK. (A.C.N.S. H 0100/19 to B.C. 1.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH and six destroyers will R/V with HOOD 4 miles 360° from Dunnet Head at 0630/19. Request LONDON be detached to Scapa on completion of R.D./F test. NORFOLK sailed from Scapa at 2200/18 for Reykjavik. (F.O.C. 18th C.S. 0100/19 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.

Scapa departure QUEEN ELIZABETH, INGLEFIELD, ELECTRA, ARROW, ECHO, ECLIPSE and ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 0545/19)

Intend patrolling to southwards of Iceland during night 19/20 March, passing through position (a) 063° 30' N., 014° W., at 0700Z/20 and (b) 062° 50' N., 014° 40' W., at 1000Z/20.
2. R/V with me in position (b)
(C. in C., H.F. 1359/19 to B.C.S. 1.)

Scapa departure C.S. 1 in NORFOLK. E.T.A Reykjavik 0900Z/20. (A.C.O.S. 2138/18)

Western Channel Patrol

Arrivals 0745/19. KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL (C. in C., Plymouth 0755/19)

TIGRIS

(A) With a view to intercepting enemy ships the morning after they leave or the evening before they arrive Bay of Biscay Ports, the Western Limits of your Patrol Zone have been extended to a line passing through the following positions, 047° 20' 008° 00' W., 046° 30' N 008° 00' W., 045° 30' N., 006° 18' W.
(B) It must be particularly noted that part of your Zone is outside area in which ships may be attacked without warning.
(Capt. S.3. 1025/19 to TIGRIS)

/ARGUS.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

ARGUS (Operation "Winch")	Your 1057/18. A.M. 1045/15 and ARGUS 1136/18. Seven Hurricanes not yet arrived Abbotsinch, time of arrival indefinite. Considered improbable ship will be ready to sail today. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1206/19)
East Coast Patrol	On completion of lay return to 5 Buoy, then patrol between 5 Buoy and 55A Buoy in 40 Q.Z.S. until 0600/20. Keep well clear of F.S. 39 due 5 Buoy about 0001/20. A/P Trawlers FRANKLIN and SEMNOS on patrol North of 5 Buoy have been informed. (C. in C., Nore, 1220/19 to SHELDRAKE, PUFFIN and 1223/19 to WALLACE, EGLINTON)
E-Boats on East Coast	Tonight E-Boats should not be chased further East that 002° 15' E., between latitude 052° 45' and 052° 20' N. (C. in C., Nore 1447/19 to WALLACE etc.)
Operation G.W.	C. in C., Plymouth 1825/19 dee Operations Volume.
Patrol of Rosemary and Lousy Banks	My 1831/9. Patrol is to be maintained in this area by ships of 10th A/S Group, ships spending about 60% of time at sea. (C. in C., W.A. 1909/19)
Iceland Ferry Service	Admty's 1148/16, C. in C., Plymouth's 1757/18 and Admty's 1321/19. ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN will be ready to leave Clyde for Reykjavik on 2/4. C. in C., W.A., is requested to: (a) arrange for ships to sail in company with RESOLUTION and for them to proceed to Reykjavik with her escort. (b) escort the two ships back to U.K. as soon as they have embarked troops. It is expected that this can be done in 24 hours. (A.C.N.S. H. 1937/19)

/Interception..

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Interception of Captured Whale Ships or Tankers.

1. HILARY is to proceed at best possible speed to Area A 1.
2. CORINTHIAN is to proceed at best possible speed to Area A.2, until necessary to leave to comply with F.O.C. N.P. 1044/16.
3. Object is interception of captured Norwegian Whale Factory Ships or Tankers which may be returning to French West ports.
4. Report expected time of arrival on patrol waters. (V.C.N.S. 2001/19)

Your 2001/19. Numbers 2805 and 8240 in my copy of S.P. 02329 are blank. Have assumed first to have been allocated to HILARY and am proceeding at utmost speed to Area A.1. Present position 032° N., 019° 25' W. E.T.A. at Area A.1., 1000/22nd. V.A.N.P. 1044/16 not received. (HILARY 2200/19)

GEIR Intercepted by British S/M.

Icelandic fishing vessel GEIR reports having been stopped at approx. 1700/16 about 27 miles W.N.W. of Barra Head by a submarine flying white ensign and answering description of British S/M. Trawler ordered to lower boats then boarded and subsequently allowed to proceed. Submarine Commander informed Skipper that on day before had stopped similar trawler with Icelandic markings and same funnel bands, and that the latter had turned out to be German trawler armed with guns, mines and torpedoes. Also stated he had sunk this craft. (F.O.Iceland, 2325/19)

Operation CLAYMORE

Following ships were sunk during this Operation:-
KREBS (Patrol Vessel)
HAMBURG (ex ILMAR, 5470 tons)
EILENAU (German, 1404 tons)
GUMBINNEM (German, 1381 tons)
FELIX HEUMANN (German, 2468 tons)
BERNARD SCHULTE (German, 1058 tons)
RISSEN (Fishing Vessel)
MIRA (Norwegian, 1152 tons)
(D.S. 561.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

M/V's and E-Boat attacked.

On 18/3 and in 55° 23' N., 6° 30' N., A/C attacked 2 Coastal Steamers of 7-8000 tons heading north. Near Miss.
One other Blenheim bombed E-Boat 2 miles N.W. of Texel. Near Miss. (H.Q.B.C. 00020/19)

Fighter Cover

Request fighter protection for 6 motor ships and one escort vessel, 0800 until dark/19th, 053° 15' N., 005° 25' W., to Avonmouth. E.T.A. dawn 20th. (C. in C., W.A. 0021/19 to H.Q.F.C.)

Patrols

Your 57143 (M.O.8) 18/3. Time of patrol are G.M.T. (G.O.C. Iceland 0218/19 to War Office.)
My 1742/18. Aircraft unable to take off until daylight, consequently patrol R three cannot commence until 1215. R one will now commence 0945 and continue until dusk. (C. in C., Rosyth 0248/19)
My 2010/18. Times given are G.M.T. (D.C. 0534/19 to C. in C., H.F.)
Patrol R.3. should be added to list of 18 Group Standard Patrols. Particulars. (C. in C., Rosyth 0632/19) See Summaries Folder.
Cancel my 1700/22 (Daily patrol over Stavanger aerodrome) This patrol is no longer being flown. (C. in C., Rosyth 0750/19
My 2128/18. Patrol STAB is being flown today. (C. in C., Rosyth 1046/19)
My 0248/19. A/C on R. 3 returned owing to engine failure. Patrol will now commence at 1600. (C. in C., Rosyth 1328/19)
Your 56997 M.O.[illegible]) of [illegible]th. First patrol over area 0900-1200 hours G.M.T. returned Nothing to report. Visibility to north 50 miles . To South 6 miles.
(G.O.C. Iceland, 1542/19 to War Office)
Second patrol over area 1300-1600 hours G.M.T. returned. Nil report. (G.O.C. Iceland, 1754/19 to War Office.)
Patrol planes have returned. Nothing to report. (F.O.Iceland 1815/19)
Blenheim aircraft will carry out two endless chain patrols from 0630 until 1030 to-morrow. First patrol between North Ronaldshay and Sumburgh Head, 2nd patrol between G 24 34. Object attempted interception of Focke-Wulf. Patrol R.3. will be flown from 0730 - 1130 and from 1700 - 2100 to-morrow. (C. in C., Rosyth 1836/19)

/My 1559/18....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols-Contd.

My 1559/18 and 2010/18. Similar patrols will be flown tomorrow Thursday. (D.C. 2157/19 to C. in C., H.F.)
Patrols TROST, STAB, BERT, will be flown tomorrow A/C taking off at daylight. (C. in C., Rosyth 2312/19)

QUEEN ELIZABETH Escort

Expect escort by Blenheim A/C of 18 Group from 0700/19. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0424/19 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

Bombing Restrictions.

Ops/349 19/3. Institute bombing restrictions for surface vessels 1930/19 to 0730/20 in area between 48° N., to 50° 30' N., and 3° W., to 7° W. (H.Q.C.C. 0840/19 to 19 Group)
Request T.B.R. in Dartmouth S/M sanctuary from 0830 - 1830 daily from 20th to 27th March incl. (C. in C., Plymouth 1117/19 to H.Q.C.C.)
Own surface forces will be operating in the Dover Strait tonight 19/20 between Meridian of Greenwich and a line joining North Foreland to Dunkirk. Request bombing restrictions accordingly from 2000/19 until further signal is made. (V.A.Dover, 1507/19 to AO. C. in C.,C.C.)

One Aircraft to Iceland

My 0248/19. One Sunderland A/C left Invergordon 0830/19 on direct route to Reykjavik. E.T.A. 1430/19. (C. in C., Rosyth 1116/19)

My 1046/19. Amend para 2 to read Air Escort by Hudson Aircraft from 1200/1830/19/ will be given. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1148/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Off Worthing	Observers report bombs dropped off Worthing to seaward. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven 0123/19)
Convoy H.G. 55	Enemy aircraft shadowing convoy. My position 55° 28' N., 13° 4' W. (ARETHUSA 0824/19)
	Long range enemy aircraft are operating in your vicinity. Attack may be expected. (D.D.I.C. 1129/19 to KEPPEL)
Portsmouth Damage in Air-Raid Night 18/19.	EXCELLENT reports two H.E. at 0345/19 near Fort Cumberland and gun position Fraser battery. Slight damage to brick building. No casualties. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1147/19, S.C.O.E. Portsmouth 1500/19)
M/V reported sunk.	Small Merchant vessel reported sunk by Fokke Wolfe aircraft in position 315° North Rone 35 miles at 0955/19. Glen Martin from Hatston being sent now to search for survivors. (A.C.O.S. 1203/19)
Convoy O.B .298. BENVORLICH, (British, 5193 tons Sunk) TEMPLE INN (British, 5218 tons MAMURA (Dutch Tanker, 8245 tons) Damaged.	O.B. 298 attacked by one Focker Wolfe Aircraft at 0740 in 54° 42' N., 13° 20' W., BENVORLICH sunk, 11 survivors. TEMPLE INN and MAMURA damaged but continued with convoy. Intend drastic evasive action at dusk. Request increased Air escort to throw off shadower. (VETERAN 1305/19)
ROBERT F.HAND (British Tanker 12,197 tons) Attacked.	AAAA 52° 34' N., 5. 34' W. ROBERT F. HAND attacked. (Burnham-on-sea Radio, 1332/19) (Port Patrick Radio 1416/19) Course 193, speed 11 knots, enemy aircraft not returned. (Burnham Radio 1402/19) My 1507. Assist ROBERT F.HAND in 052° 24' N., 005° 38' W. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1531/19 to SAINT CLAIR) AAAA Received 1410 G.M.T. from ROBERT F. HAND. Cancel our AAAA Broadcast timed 1332/19. (Burnham Radio 1510/19)

/SS LEO.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS LEO Sunk	ECHO picked up 38 survivors Norwegian SS LEO at 1420/19 in 59° N., 07° 29' W., LEO was bombed at about 0930/19. No casualties. (B.C. 1. 1515/19)
Hull. Sculcoates Depot Bombed.	Sculcoates Naval Store Depot, Hull. Serious damage. Civilian watchmen, casualties. (F.O.Humber 1758/19)
Aircraft off Iceland	Aircraft sighted by FARMER in about 063° 35' N., 018° 00' W., at 1840 flying south easterly. From description R.A.F. officers consider plane to be either H.E. 59 or H.E. 60 or Aride 95. (F.O. Iceland, 1947/19 to C. in C., H.F.)
Clyde. Damage by Air Raid. Oil Tanks. Shipyards. ANTHONY EASTERN ISLES Damaged.	My 2235/18. (A) One oil tank No 31 at Old Kilpatrick is still alight but it is expected that it will burn itself out during the course of the night. Draining of saucers proceeding slowly on account of fractured pipe lines in the installation. (D) Further reports from affected yards are as follows. ANTHONY received a fair amount of superficial damage; and considerable damage, entailing about 14 days work, was done to the accommodation, docks, etc., of EASTERN ISLES. Both of these were lying alongside the wharves. All U.X.B's so far reported are being dealt with. River still open to traffic at stated times only to allow of sweeping operations. No further damage to ships has been reported. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2315/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Channel Clearance Sweep.	M/S report for 18/3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0112/19)
	Mine clearance operations 18/3. (V.A. Dover 1125/19)
	Coastguard Shoreham, report. Explosion as from a mine South of Hove C.G. Station Distant. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0122/19)
Scarborough	Mine with parachute attached dropped in Scarborough. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool 0750/19) Military report via R.N.O. Bridlington an unexploded Mine with parachute on shore at Reighton. Map. ref 607949. (R.N.O. Scarborough 0857/19)
Z.M.E. 24	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1630 today for Z.M.E. 24 to lay at 0005 returning on completion about 0800 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1016/19)
Milford Haven	Cancel my 1001/15 and 1151/12. Channel into Port is now only closed for sweeping between 0700 and 0800, with Berths in the Harbour available, Ships may be received at any time. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1101/19)
Thames Estuary	Magnetic mine detonated at 0405 in 037° B. 5 buoy 7 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1116/19)
Operation S.N. 69.	Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1410/19)
At 0440/19	Aircraft dropped heavy objects, possibly mines, which did not explode in approx. 260° and 320° each 8 cables from No. 1. Yantlet Buoy. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1727/19)
Operation G.U.	Sailed M.L's 156 (S.O.) 180, 177, 160 (N.O.i/c Dartmouth 1859/19) Sailed 1930 KELLY KELVIN JACKAL. (C. in C., Plymouth 1945/19)

/TOTTENHAM.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

TOTTENHAM (British 4762 tons) PARRACOMBE (British 4702 tons)	Following damage sustained by near mine misses in Southend Anchorage, both ships anchorage, both ships anchored at time of explosions. M/Sweepers Working. No casualties to personnel reported. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1906/19)
	Six S.A. mines detonated today as follows (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 2214/19)
Anti E-Boat Floating Mines.	Set to suicide about 0500/20 will be laid about 1900 today in 52° 30' N., 2° 30' E Ships chasing E-Boats tonight are not to go further east than 2° 15' E., when between latitudes 52° 45' N., and 52° 20' N. (C. in C., Nore, 1216/19)
Humber	Humber closed. Suspected minelaying. Anticipated time of opening five hours after fog lifts. (F.O.Humber 1220/19) Humber is open to Navigation. (F.O.Humber 1735/19)
Rosyth Command	4th to 18th March inclusive the following mines and anti-sweeping explosive floats have been dealt with in this Command. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1238/19)
Falmouth	1 large red mine detonated by M/S Trawler at 0935 today in 50° 7' 35" N., 5° 1' 50" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1430/19)
Off Bell Rock	Drifting mines may be met vicinity Bell Rock. (C. in C., Rosyth 1558/19)
	D. 20's 1411/18. Sailed INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth 1945/19)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Heligoland Bight.

Enemy intelligence. (H.Q.B.C. 0020/19).

Surface Unit.

By D/F at 1313/19 G.M.T. Bearing from Cupar 300/3. Traffic YY, remainder unreadable. Probably from German surface unit. (D.D.I.C. 1521/19).

M/V's leave Gothenburg.

British Consul reports all German merchant vessels left Gothenburg p.m./18. Number estimated between 30 and 40. (N.A.Stockholm, 1621/19).

Ice in Baltic, Sound, and Belts.

Ice report 19/3.

1. General conditions improving, thaw continues. (Details). (N.A.Stockholm, 1703/19).

Navigation of Norwegian Coast. Panamanian ship in Kristiansand in 11/40.

My 2005/12. Member of crew of Finnish AAGOT. In middle of December while in Finnish Government ship SUURSAARI G.T. 220 on voyage from Helsinki to Petsamo passed through Norwegian inner Channels as follows.

2. Panamanian ship seen in Kristiansand fully loaded in November. Description. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1755/19).

E/Boats.

Aircraft report 2 E/Boats in 52° 37'N., 4° 30'E. steering 070° at 1710.
(C.in C. Nore, 1851/19 to SHELDRAKE etc.)
H.Q. Patrol at 2150/18 reported fast moving surface craft heading North and then turning East. Between 0400/19 and 0635 several sources reported sound of fast motor boat cruising up and down coast close inshore off Aldeburgh last reported Orfordness proceeding South.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1941/19).
4 E/Boats reported in 052° 10'N., 002° 31'E. at 1915.
(C.in C. Nore, 2015/19 to WALLACE etc.)
E/Boats bear 140° at 2144.
(Yarmouth 2149/19).
Further bearings.
(Yarmouth 2203/19, 2207/19, 2235/19, 2315/19, 2325/19, 2337/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Possible enemy expedition against Iceland.

Intelligence points to probability of enemy in Norway preparing expedition against Iceland. Seidisfiord and Reydarfjord nearest point and would form advanced bases. G.O.C. however considers Siglufjord with valuable fish factories and stocks of herring oil and meal all highly inflammable most likely target. Only available garrison one platoon. Aircraft not yet available. Consider enemy ships would approach from N.W. I have no intelligence of this nature and consider attack on Siglufjord would only affect us from point of view of prestige, though causing loss to people of Iceland.
(F.O.Iceland, 1857/19 to C.in C. H.F.)

U/Boat base at Hardanger Fjord.
BLACK PRINCE
BLACK WATCH
whereabouts.

1. Hardanger Fjord. German U/Boat base is now established at Eidfjord (Eastern extreme of Hardanger).
(N.A.Stockholm, 1629/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Meeting Convoys.	Your 1345/11 (failure to meet incoming convoys, proposals). Concur. The increased chances of the convoy's position being more accurately disclosed must be accepted. Request you will promulgate the proposed amendment to W.A.C.I.S. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1357/19 to C.in C. W.A.) Instructions to Capt: (D) Londonderry, Liverpool, Greenock, (C.in C. W.A., 1855/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

AUGVALD. (Norwegian 4811 tons). PIMPERNEL is proceeding independently to Clyde to land badly wounded survivors from AUGVALD and Iceland trawler.
(WHITEHALL, 0409/19).

NEWLYN. (Steam Drifter). Grounded and became total loss on 26/2 when on passage for return to Owners.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1439/19).

LUDLOW. My 1235/17. Both delayed by defects.
LEEDS. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1518/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

B.C's sighted by MALAYA's a/c.

My 1203/15. Crew are certain that first vessel was not a dummy but are not so sure about the second.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0102/19 to F.O.H., F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A.).

ANTARKTIS (German)

Sailed from Vigo night of 17-18/3.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1013/19, to N.A. Stn.).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT, (German)

My 2112/18 to S. & A. N.A. Station.
Owing to possibility of RUDOLF ALBRECHT leaving Tenoriffe remain on patrol T.1 further 24 hours if fuel permits.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1056/19 to REGISTAN).
Your 1056/19. Insufficient fuel. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800/22. (REGISTAN, 1245/19).

ASAKA MARU

By D/F bearings, was approx. 60 miles N.W. of Lisbon at 1458Z/19. (D.D.I.C. 1743/19 to N.A. Stn.).

My 1713/3. French Sources confirms ASAKA MARU loading cases Bilbao believed to contain guns. Cases ex French Ship from Bordeaux.
(N.A. Madrid, 1823/19, to Admty.).

Crew of A/C Rescued by Spanish ship.

My 1242/16. Minister for External Affairs states crew are being sent to Madrid to be put at our disposal. Will send them to Gibraltar unless instructions to contrary.
(N.A. Madrid, 1837/19, to Admty.).

Vichy French repatriation.

Re repatriation of Vichy Frenchmen at present at Gibraltar. Proposals.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1904/19, to Admty.).

OLE WEGGER
PELAGOS
SOL GLIMT
SANDE FJORD

Following Norwegian whale factory ships OLE WEGGER, PELAGOS and SOL GLIMT and Tanker SANDE FJORD are missing from S. Atlantic. Probable they have been captured and may be returning to French Western ports in next few days, as also German ship TANNENFELS which left Kismayu 30/1.
Experence shows that their route will probably be between 30° W. and 40° W. as far as 45° N. to 46° N. and thence eastward to their destinations. (D.N.I. 2011/19 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H, C.S.18 etc.).

TUNE,
WRESTLER

FEARLESS,
FORESIGHT,
FORTUNE
WRESTLER

(Sailed?) FEARLESS FORESIGHT FORTUNE WRESTLER in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1642/18 (S.O.I. Gib., 2220/19, to Admty., S.O. Force H)

MOST SECRET.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SIAM II	Overdue shipping, cancel my 1051/17. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0936/19).
MALAYA	Possibly reported by U/B 1204/19. See U-Boat Campaign.
CALENDULA	Fired at U/B in 18.30 N., 22.05 W. See U-Boat Campaign.
MARATHON	Overdue shipping. Greek MARATHON, LUNAH-LUNAN, Ponta Delgada departure 5/3 due Freetown has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1154/19).
S.L.69 REPULSE	Your 1416/9 and 1747/17 (1) REPULSE can leave Freetown 54 hours after convoy SL 69 overtaking in position 15° N. 18° 30' W. then accompany to approx 27° N. 22° W. before leaving to return Freetown to fuel and be in readiness to escort W.S.7. Possible will not be able to go further than 26° N. (2) If REPULSE proceeds Gibraltar to fuel she can remain approx. 12 - 24 hours longer with convoy but would be late for WS 7. Overtaking WS 7 after leaving Freetown is not possible as REPULSE has only sufficient fuel to reach Cape at convoy speed by direct route. To fuel at St. Helena would mean diversion of convoy to westward. Intend action as (1). (C.in C. S.A., 1307/19, to Admty.).
Convoy SL 69	Should not be sailed until further orders. (D.T.D. 1405/19 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).
Convoy SL 68	Should make a drastic alteration of course at dark to-night. If attacked after dark consideration should be given to the advisability of scattering convoy, with orders to reassemble two or three days later at a rendezvous well off the original line of advance. Avoid 20° W. (D.T.D., 1536/19, to MALAYA).
TUSCAN STAR.	Your 1147/12. Has TUSCAN STAR arrived Freetown? (D.T.D. 1626/19 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ CALENDULA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CALENDULA — In view of Admty. 1536/19 and expenditure of oil fuel am patrolling in proximity of 019° 08' N. 022° 35' W.
Consider your 0127/19 (not received by Admty.) to be one result today. (CALENDULA 1945/19, to C.in C. S.A.). For submarine attacked by CALENDULA see U/Boat Campaign.

SAINT DOMINGUE — French, arrived Para 19/3.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2014Z/19).

NORDERNEY
LECH
(German) — Para reports NORDERNEY continues to load. Twelve additional crew have joined ex LECH.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2112Z/19).

BULOLO, whaling ships. — Proceed now to pass through 019° 10' N. 032° 50' W. 015° 30' N. 032° 50' W. thence to Freetown adjusting speed to arrive A.M./26. Possibility of meeting whale factory ships OLE WEGGER, PELAGOS, SOLGLUIT, SANDEFJORD, captured by Germans, also German ship TANNENFELS which left Kismayu 30/1.
(C.in C. S.A., 2119N/19, to BULOLO).

CATHAY
CHRISTIAN HUYGENS
BIRMINGHAM — Your 1625/2. CATHAY has serious defects in rudder. Intend CHRISTIAN HUYGENS shall sail from Capetown 21/3 independently routed near coast. BIRMINGHAM to sail p.m./22, join CHRISTIAN HUYGENS about position 21 S 10 E and escort to Freetown. CATHAY to provide escort for EMPRESS OF JAPAN (date).
(C.in C. S.A., 2141/19 to Admty.).

W.S.8. — Your 1352/16/1. Request information probable date of sailing of W.S.8 in order that A.M.C. for escort may be arranged.
(C.in C. S.A., 2211/19, to Admty.).

DELHI — Request you will sail DELHI to Trinidad after changing propeller in accordance with my 1302/18.
Destination in U.S.A. will be signalled.
(D.O.D.(F) 2249/19, to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tripoli attacked with bombs and cucumbers.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. 9 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. despatched to attack Tripoli Harbour night 18/19. 5 carried cucumbers and 4 carried bombs. Attack lasted from 0140 to 0145. Hits and fire observed on Spanish Quay between warehouses and near gun positions East of Seaplane station also direct hit and 2 near misses on M/V 5-8000, tons in harbour near entrance. 5 cucumbers planted in channel between 2 lights in line with North Mole. 1 destroyer 3 miles N.E. Tripoli course 023° at 0148 hours. 1 bomber Swordfish failed to return.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0945/19).

Convoy

A.S.19 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1151/19).

Enemy M.V. sunk.

Operational Summary No. 282 up to 1200/19.
Cyrenaica. Night 17/18 March. 3 F.A. Albacore torpedo attacked shipping Buerat El Hsun sinking 1 ship about 1500 tons. 1 Albacore missing.

Durazzo bombed.

2. Greece. Night 17/18. 7 Wellingtons dropped 17,250 lbs. bombs on Durazzo docks. Cloud prevented assessment results but docks well hit with resulting violent explosion.

U/B hunt.

18/3, 1 Sunderland assisted destroyer to submarine hunt position 37° 34' N. 24° 00 mins. East dropping 2 bombs results unknown.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1151/19).

ROSAURA mined.

ROSAURA sunk by mine in position 146° Mersa Tobruk Light 8¾ cables when leaving harbour p.m./18. No details yet.
(C.in C. Med., 1515/19, to Admty.).

German A/C's.

Latest information indicates German aircraft carrying out sweeps parallel to North Africa Coast frequently particularly at dusk.
(Capt. S.1, 1615/19, to RORQUAL).

French Tanker.

American Consular representative just returned from Algiers reports a French Tanker was ready to leave with 10,000 tons Gasoline.
(N.A. Madrid, 1743/19, to D.N.I., C.in C. Med., S.O.I., Gib.).

Battleship Strength.

Review, proposals, re QUEEN ELIZABETH and BARHAM. (C.in C. Med., 1853/19 to Admty.).
(See Mediterranean Volume).

/ Suez Canal
ILLUSTRIOUS ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal. ILLUSTRIOUS.	Situation 2000/19. 27 motor vessels from Suez arrived as follows, 8 Port Said, 8 Lake Timsah, 11 Great Bitter Lake. Intend to transit ILLUSTRIOUS and 26 motor vessels from Great Bitter Lake to Suez 20/3. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1933/19 to C.in C.Med.)
Fast Minelayers.	Your 1304/23/11/1940. Request information as to when fast minelayers may be expected. 2. If Northern Greece is overrun by Germans much can be done to deny them use of Greek Ports by intensive mining. (C.in C. Med. 1945/19).
Greek ships, degaussing.	Provision of facilities for degaussing Greek ships under urgent consideration. Have any orders been issued prohibiting the use of the Canal by undegaussed merchant ships? (D.T.D. 2035/19 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
Armed Italian S.V's.	Information received that a number of Italian armed sailing vessels are being employed from Naples on convoy routes. (Cdr. S.1, 2103/19, to S/M's on Patrol).
Shipping in Yugoslav territorial waters.	Use by Italian shipping of Yugoslav waters. Policy re attack. (Capt. S.1, 2232/19 to REGENT) See Mediterranean Volume.
F.A.A. attacks on Valona and Durazzo.	In view of political desirability of showing our ability to use naval striking force in Adriatic I have agreed to release result of recent F.A.A. activity. Intend to issue following communique: Aircraft of F.A.A. carried out a series of extremely successful attacks on (? nights of) 15th to 17/3 against enemy craft in harbour of Valona and Durazzo, causing severe damage. 6 or 7 hits were scored with torpedoes and ships sunk or damaged include a Cruiser or large destroyer. (C.in C. Med. 2329/19 to Admty.).
REGENT, Adriatic Patrol.	My 1209/18. (?Greeks) have now been requested to keep clear night of 22 - 23 in addition to at daylight/22. (Capt. S.1, 2355/19, to REGENT).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

2nd M/S F. — Programme to Suez. (C.in C. E.I., 0510Z/19 to C.in C. Med.).

M/S craft for Mauritius. — (C.in C. E.I. 0603Z/19).

Force T. — HERMES and ENTERPRISE (Force T) are to leave vicinity of Colombo p.m./20 and proceed to carry out following programme:- 22/3. Arrive East end one half degree of channel at dawn. Carry out air search of Southern Atolls of Maldives. Then proceed eastward side of Chagos Archipelago. 23/3. Carry out air search of Chagos Archipelago. ENTERPRISE visiting Diego Garcia. 24 to 26/3. Carry out air searches to S., W. and N.W. of Chagos. 27/3 a.m. arrive Addu Atoll and complete fuel from Oiler PEARLEAF.
(C.in C. E.I., 1130Z/19)

SHROPSHIRE — Replacement for, from R.A.N. (See Australia).

CARSO, MARGUERA, salvage. — Ref. 0744 Z/26/2, C.in C. E.I. and my 1403 B/7 neither to Admiralty. Salvage of Italian ships scuttled at Kismayu. Syndicate offer attempt to salvage CARSO and MARGERA on following basis. Very early acceptance is recommended. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1615/19, to Admty.).

Aden Ports. — My 1630/14 and your 0736/17. Agree ports on South Coast Gulf Aden should be responsibility of S.T.O. Aden.
(D. of S.T. 1746/19 to C.in C. E.I.).

CHABOOL tug, missing. — Tug CHABOOL is missing since 15/3. My 0830/15 refers. CHABOOL is a steam tug of 58 tons gross owned by Luke Thomas. She left Aden at 1730Z/15 for Berbera under command of Lieut. John Mumford R.N.R. with crew of seven ratings from GLASGOW. Had coal for three days and provisions for four days. Daily air and surface search on and since 16/3 have failed to locate her. She had ample life saving equipment, fire works and signalling lamps but no W/T. Search continues.
(S.N.O. Red Sea, 2005Z/19 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Warship sighted 11/3.

Your 2012/17. Information such as that contained in my 0541/16 is automatically passed to A.C.N.B. by Dutch concurrently with authorities at Singapore.
(Capt. O.3., Singapore, 0723/19, to Admty.).

CARIGNANO

Cancel my 0342/17. (re - departure of CARIGNANO) (Capt. O.3. Singapore 0818/19).

America and West Indies.

GEISHA, submerged object.

Norwegian ship GEISHA reports striking submerged object on 24/2. in 061.34 N. 016.33 W. caused leak in tank amidships. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1228/19).

H.X.116, S.C.26.

Your 1217/18. Concur in using ROYAL SOVEREIGN and PORPOISE as ocean escort for H.X.116 and S.C.26, ROYAL SOVEREIGN sailing from Halifax a.m./22. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1320/19 to R.A.3.).

Homeward Passages from Bermuda.

Your 1204/14. Concur in your proposals in para. 4. (D.T.D. 1402/19 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

U/B Report.

A/C Report of S/M, possibly THUNDERBOLT. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1722/19) See U-Boat Campaign

German M.V's.

German Ships at Callao and Antofagasta showing signs of activity. Proceed forthwith so as to arrive Callao a.m./24 for 24 hours, abandon establishment of patrol on 25/3 owing to approach to Callao and endeavour to avoid being sighted. Direct BISHOPDALE R/V with you in Callao Area as requisite, informing me of selected R/V by cable from Callao.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1721/19, to PRINCE HENRY).

DESPATCH

To leave Trinidad a.m./21 and patrol in area O. Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 26/3. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1802/19, to DESPATCH).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

SHROPSHIRE CANBERRA AUSTRALIA	Your 1226/16/1. As SHROPSHIRE does not complete refit at Simonstown until (date) Admiralty will be grateful if refit of CANBERRA can be deferred until after that date so that either AUSTRALIA or CANBERRA will be available to operate in E. Indies Station until SHROPSHIRE is ready. (D.O.D.(F) 1559/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ERODONA
FERM
(torpedoed 16/3).

Detach WELLAND at daylight/19 to R/V with NORTHERN FOAM and Tug BRIGAND in 61° 33' N. 55' W. When BRIGAND gets M.V. FERM in tow WELLAND is to escort them to Minches. (C.in C. W.A., 0016/19, to KEPPEL).
Standing by FERM. No one aboard. Will connect up at daylight.
(BRIGAND, 2200/19, to N.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.).
Fleet tug BRIGAND reports picking up survivor of TankerERODONA. Close BRIGAND searching for FERM in 061° 37' N. 011° 07'W. and take off survivors.
(C.in C. W.A. 2309/19 to PETUNIA, WELLAND).
Your 1930 report if ERODONA has sunk. PETUNIA and WELLARD have been ordered to close you to take off survivors. After transferring survivors continue search for FERM in position X given in my 1555 unless you are in contact with ERODONA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2335/19 to BRIGAND).

MANDALIKA

Dutch (ex-NORDMARK) 7750 tons, (Batavia for Belfast with sugar in Convoy S.L.68).
Following has been read: SSSS 18.16 N. 21.26 W., MANDALIKA torpedoed.
(Gibraltar W/T, 0040/19) (D.S. 561).

VENETIA
(torpedoed 16/3)

Report whether survivors consider VENETIA is still afloat. (C.in C. W.A., 0047/19, to WALKER).
No information of s.s. VENETIA. Survivors were picked up by BLUEBELL.
(WALKER, 0210/19).
VENETIA sank on the night of 16/3.
(BLUEBELL, 0401/19).
Tug ST. OLAVES is in your vicinity. Report forthwith if her assistance is required stating your p.c. and s.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0803/19 to BLUEBELL)

CLAN MACIVER
(18/3)

My 2305/18. Attack unsuccessful. 2 enemy submarines 058° 01' N., 024° 25' W.
(CLAN MACIVER, 0740/19, to Port Patrick, any British Man-of-War, A.C.O.S. 1356/19 to A.I.G. 64, 81, 83).

/ FERM
BEDUIN
(torpedoed 18/3) ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd).

FERM, BEDUIN (torpedoed 18/3)	Only ships now afloat are FERM in position 61° 33' N. 11° 55' W. to whom BRIGAND is proceeding, and stern half of BEDUIN in position 61° 02' N. 11° 53' W. with NORTHERN SKY standing by. (? 1142/19, to ZWARTE ZEE). Tugs ZWARTE ZEE, PRUDENT consider that towing of stern of tanker BEDUIN hopeless. Have endeavoured to sink but cannot spare more ammunition. Waiting to see effects of shelling. Have sunk forward half. Request instructions whether to proceed with TR37. (NORTHERN SKY, 1235/19, to S.O.N.P.T.). ZWARTE ZEE made contact with BEDOUIN 1100/19 vessel apparently whole with all underwater except stern almost vertical towage impossible. Now standing by FERM, making connection at daylight, has very heavy list position 061° 36' 010° 48'. (PRUDENT, 1930/19, to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Re landing of survivors. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 2358/19, to A.C.O.S.).
FRANCHE COMTE, (torpedoed 16/3)	Your 1035/19. Destination FRANCHE COMTE Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1209/19 to BLUEBELL). My 1203/19. A/C reports carried out square search in area and observed a very distinct oil patch about 11 miles 340° from position of reported sinking. No boats or ships fittings were observed but small coasting steamer was seen 12 miles 170° from oil patch but would not answer aircraft. Aircraft searched for 70 minutes. (A.C.O.S. 1708/19 to C.in C. Rosyth, C.in C. W.A., Admty.).
H.X.112 (attacked 16/3)	It is established that at least one of the U-boats which attacked H.X.112 entered convoy lines from astern. (C.in C. W.A. 1829/19 to VETERAN, BULLDOG, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0015	59.30 N., 1° E., very indefinite. (D.S.561).
1011	54.30 N., 14° W. indefinite. (D.S. 561).
1033	54° - 55° N., W. of 20° W., indefinite (Italian (D.S. 561).
1049	54° - 55° N., 16° - 19° W. indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 561).
0536	49° N., 28° W., indefinite (D.S. 561).
1109	55° - 56° N., 22° W. - 25° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 561).
0152	Vicinity of C. Verde, indefinite. (D.S.561).
1221	60° N., 25° W., very indefinite (D.S. 562).
2120	60° N., 15° W., very indefinite (D.S. 562).
2059	59° N., W. of 23° W. very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 562).
2153	55° N., 16° W. very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 562).
1454	54° N., 14° W. very indefinite (German) (D.S. 562).
1906	54° N., 15° W. very indefinite (D.S. 562).
1251	53 - 56° N., 20 - 22° W. very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 562).
1944	49° N., 37° W. very indefinite (German) (D.S. 562).
2022	36° N., 15° W. very indefinite (German) (D.S. 562).

0012	Admty. Message A.F. Position 58° 05' N: 24° 22' W. at 2312/18 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0047/19.).
0015	D/F at 0015/19 position of German U-Boat was 59° 30' N. 1° E. This is an indication of the area only. (D.D.I.C. 0101/19).
0140	Admty. Message AF. Position 18° 16' N: 21° 26' W. at 0040/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0243/19).

/ Cape Verde. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Cape Verde. Your 1611/18 not to Admiralty.
Unit considered to be U/boat in vicinity of Cape Verde Islands. Your 1516/17 not received in Admiralty.
Request frequency, preamble and text of message. (D.D.I.C. 0402/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
Your 0402/19. My 1516/17 to C.in C. A.&.W.I. placed unit at 0248/17 in 19 N. 18 W. reliable Frequency 5660 (b) Frequency 12040 kc/s at 1323/18 begins PP ZBKR IFGG WK.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0411/19).

1032. An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a Convoy or important unit.
(D.D.I.C. 1032/19).
My 1032/19. Probable that the formation reported was convoy OB 298 or possibly HG.55.
(D.D.I.C. 1055/19 to S. & A. Western Command, VETERAN, SCARBOROUGH, H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S)

1204 D/F bearing of transmission at 1104/19 G.M.T. suggest U Boat approx. 019° N. 021° W. Indications are U Boat possibly reporting your movements.
(C.in C. S.A., 1127N/19, to MALAYA).

1454. There was still a U/B in the vicinity of Convoy OB 298 at 1454 B.S.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1525/19 to VETERAN, F.O.S., etc.).
You will possibly be attacked by at least four submarines during the night. A large proportion of these will be Italian. Inform Commodore. (C.in C. W.A., 1629/19 to VETERAN, HAVELOCK).

2105, possibly THUNDERBOLT Atlantic ferry a/c report s/m in position 041° 30' N. 044° 22' W. course 068° at2005 G.M.T./19 Submarine submerged on approach of a/c. This is possibly THUNDERBOLT. Observer reliable
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1722/19 to KING GEORGE V, French Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC, Atlantic Escort Force, TALISMAN).
Your 1849/18. Bearings of the same transmissic obtained by own stations placed unit in vicinit of Cape Verde Island, being result of several bearings cutting at a broad angle. Would be grateful for any future bearings obtained.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2227/19 to N.A. Washington).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1421/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By CALENDULA — In 018° 30' N. 022° 05' W. submarine submerged when fired at. Searching the area. (CALENDULA, 1221/19 to C.in C. S.A., MALAYA).

By a/c. — Aircraft reported attacking a moving oil streak thought to be from submarine in 059° 57' N. 007° 29' W. at 1113/19. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1434/19 to Orkneys and Shetlands Area). My 1434 Albacore aircraft proceeded to search vicinity. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1530/19).

By WALKER and VANOC 17/3. — Following report from WALKER. WALKER brought back 40 survivors of U Boat believed to be U99 including Capt. Kretschmer. 3 of crew missing. VANOC has 4 survivors of U Boat believed to be U100, not including her Captain Schepka. Reasonably certain that a third U Boat was sunk by WALKER. Prisoners state five U Boats were operating. Some U Boats attacked from inside convoy and I am warning all escorts that this possibility must be borne in mind. (C.in C. W.A., 1839/19, to Admty.). Preliminary report from Comdr. 5th Group on attack on H.X.112 and successful counter attacks, 16/3 and 17/3. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 2018/19 to D. A/S W. amended 0936/20) Original in Lion Copy only. A suspected U Boat has been reported and attacked by aircraft in position 59.47 N., 7.29 W. (F.O.C.O.S., 1840/19, to O. and S. Area).

Mediterranean.

Sunderland assisting destroyer, 37.34 N., 24.00 E., 2 bombs dropped. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1151/19) See Mediterranean Station.

MOST SECRET

20.3.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for German Battle Cruisers

NELSON and NIGERIA patrolled to the southward of Iceland last night. HOOD and QUEEN ELIZABETH R/Vd with C. in C., H.F. this morning between Iceland and Faeroes

HIPPER Cruiser

It was established by P.R.U. R/C today that the HIPPER class cruiser is not in Brest.

E-Boats

There was considerable E-Boat activity off Yarmouth last night and again late tonight. Coastal Command aircraft carried out attacks on E-Boats this afternoon and evening.

Cover Patrol for E-Coast Convoys.

A cover patrol for convoys was carried out last night by two destroyers from Harwich and M.G.B's.

U-Boat and Air Campaign against Shipping

The Admiralty today issued a further periodic review. Up to 22/2/40 U Boat attacks with one exception were confined to stragglers from convoys. From 23/2 it became evident that the spring offensive against shipping was beginning. U-Boats and aircraft are now co-operating and convoys have been attacked by 2 or more U-Boats working together.
Steps taken to deal with the double menace include mounting of shortrange A/A guns manned by Army personnel, in merchant ships, reinforcement of the destroyer escort forces and of the aircraft of the Coastl Command for service in the N.W. Approaches.

Irish Sea Escort Force to be formed

C. in C. W.A., intends to form an Irish Sea escort force of 3 A/S yachts to reinforce trawler escorts between Belfast and Milford Haven. The routeing arrangements which recently came into force will result in convoys of greater size proceeding through the Irish Sea than in the past and C. ih C., W.A. considers a greater measure of fighter protection to be an urgent necessity.

/The routeing...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

The routeing of merchant shipping in the Irish Sea with a view to obtaining the maximum security against air attack is to be discussed by naval and Air Force representatives on 25/3.

Fog.

Traffic in Plymouth Sound was stopped at 0830 today owing to fog. M.T.B's were prevented by fog from operating off the Dutch coast tonight.

British Air Activity

Search for German Battle Cruiser

Air reports were flown to cover the Denmark Strait today. Patrols south of Iceland was curtailed through bad weather.

Blenheims carried out a sweep off the Dutch coast today and attacked various vessels. Two direct hits were obtained on a 3000 ton ship.

8

3 aircraft attacked 5 E-Boats 38 miles W.S.W. of Ijmuiden this afternoon.

Nine Coastal Command aircraft bombed Lorient early this morning.

MOST SECRET.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Air Raid on London.

H.M.Y. CATERINA was damaged at Deptford in air attack on London last night. There were some Naval casualties and damage at Naval Offices ashore.

S.S. CIESZYN (Polish 1386 tons) was bombed and sunk off Falmouth this evening by two aircraft. YOUNG MUN (H.M.Drifter) and CHICO (H.M.Y.) were attacked south of Folkestone this afternoon by a Ju.88 which YOUNG MUN shot down.

Tug SIR BEVOIS was submerged by air attack at Plymouth today.

Trawler BIANCA was sunk off the Irish Coast this afternoon as a result, it is reported, of picking up a torpedo from an aircraft in her nets.

Two large bombs were dropped on Ramsgate today. No naval damage occurred.

Mining.

Operations Z.M.E.24.

PLOVER laid mines in St. George's Channel early this morning.

G.U.

20th D.F. (INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE) laid mines last night off the Ile de Bas covered by 3 destroyers of 5th D.F. and 4 M.L's from Dartmouth and by air patrol off the Coast of Brittany.

/Enemy aircraft

MOST SECRET.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mining of Thames.

Enemy aircraft apparently minelaying were active last night in the Thames Estuary.

Diesel tug CHARLIGHT and 3 out of 6 barges which she was towing were sunk at 1000 today by a mine off Deptford Victualling yard. All traffic in the Thames was stopped at 1032 between Tower Pier and Barking Creek. One mine was exploded and further mines are suspected.
S.S. LINDENHALL was mined and submerged in the London Docks today, apparently by a mine dropped in air attack, yesterday.

North Atlantic.

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU sighted.

Sighting of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU see 21/3.

MALAYA torpedoed.

At 0808 1417 G.M.T. today. There were D/F indications that Convoy S.L.68 was being shadowed by German U/Boat. MALAYA, escorting the convoy was hit by a torpedo at 2331Z today in 20° 2'N., 25° 55'W. (347° St. Antonio Islands (Cape Verde Islands) 180 miles) (For further proceedings see 21/3).

Raider Captives Intercepted.

Force H today intercepted about 600 miles West of Finisterre S.S. BIANCA (Norwegian) and SAN CASIMIRO (British) which had been captured by GNEISENAU on 15/3 in mid-N.Atlantic. BIANCA attempted to scuttle and cannot be steamed owing to flooded engine room. SAN CASIMIRO also scuttled.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Unusual activity and preparations for sea are reported amongst Italian merchant ships at Pernambuco.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

3 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked shipping in Durazzo last night.
ILLUSTRIOUS arrived at Suez today.

America and West Indies.

German ships at Callao and Antofogasta are showing signs of activity. PRINCE HENRY has been ordered to the port.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

URD. to be arrested.

C.in C. Rosyth's 2137/19. Similar instructions have been given in Orkneys and Shetlands Command.
(A.C.O.S. 0012/20).

LEOVILLE.

(Sloop). The Free French Navy have taken over command of LEOVILLE from 1000/20.
(TRIOMPHANT, 1030/20).

Patrol lines. T.R.37 to 39.

Following from S.L. N.T. Kirkwall:-
Admty: 1903/16/3. Request it may be represented at conference that ships on these lines would be able to remain on patrol three days longer if based on Reykjavik. While not intended to base trawlers permanently on Reykjavik, it is desired to send a maximum of six ships a month there for fuel and four days rest period. T.O.O. 1540/19/3. (Ends).
Request matter may be considered at conference.
(A.C.O.S. 1054/20).

H.G.Convoy S/M Escorts.

Your 1612/19. (proposed instructions to submarine escorts to convoys). F.O.C. N.A. to S.S. No, objection.
(F.O.S. 1239/20 to S.S.)

Iceland. Fish Trade.

Have been interviewed by Icelandic Government on subject of effect of German attacks on Icelandic Trawlers. All sailings ceased both from Iceland and U.K. 6 Trawlers refuelling loaded with fresh fish Reykjavik would sail if escorted. Public opinion much affected by losses and Government consider will be difficult to recommence sailings if stopped for more than few days. Apart from desirability maintain fresh fish trade alternative is salt fish industry which will much interfere with use of harbour.
Following proposals possible.
Am suggesting Icelandic trawlers darken ship. If this is done some simple form of recognition procedure necessary.
Request early instructions.
(F.O.Iceland) 1302/20).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Anti-E/Boat Measures.

1. Sufficient encounters with E/Boats have now been experienced to form an opinion of the value of our various defensive measures.

2. Such success as has been achieved has been obtained by destroyer escorts and destroyer patrols driving off the E/Boats before the attack developed.

3. Good ahead fire and adequate illumination have proved essential, as attacks frequently take place from a range of 3 to 5 thousand yards. Proposals for improving this are now being examined.
4. It is not considered that M.L's are ever likely to be of much value on the East Coast against E/Boats, for the following reasons.

6. Pending the arrival of re-inforcements I should be glad to have 10 or 12 M.L's for trials if these vessels are already delivered and available. They would be better than nothing.

7. It is essential to intercept E/Boats before the attack can develop and to harry them on their return voyage to Base. Until sufficient suitable aircraft with cannon gun and fast small craft are available to intercept to eastward of mine barrier, destroyers are almost the only hope.
(C.in C. Nore, 1438/20).

Irish Sea Escort Force.

My 1705/6. I intend to form Irish Sea escort force composed of TROUBADOUR, EVADNE and VIRGINIA as they become availabl shortly.

They will be based at Belfast and I propose that they should normally operate between Belfast and Milford Haven to reinforce trawler escort.

Additional A/A ships will be used to reinforce this service when they can be spared from ocean escorts.

/Arrangement

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Arrangements made in accordance with your 1850/3 and subsequent signals will result in convoys of greater size proceeding through the Irish Sea than has been the case in the past.

7. The R.A.F. have suggested that it would help greatly if the convoy routes were altered to pass closer inshore off Cardigan Bay.
(C.in C. W.A. 1907/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.3.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

UNBEATEN. Your 1223/18. Arrived R/V.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1132/20 to S.5.).

ARETHUSA. Cancel my 0057/17. ARETHUSA is required to escort H.G.56. Proceed to Clyde and refuel, subsequently sailing to join convoy as directed by C. in C. W.A.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1150/20.).
Arrived ARETHUSA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1940/20.).

HOLDERNESS.
VANESSA. Request you will sail HOLDERNESS and VANESSA for Chatham this evening M.
(D.O.D.H., 1232/20 to C. in C. Portsmouth.
HOLDERNESS and H.M.S. VANESSA will sail 1915/20 passing Sandhead Buoy 0545/21. E.T.A. Sheerness 1015/21. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1753/20.).
Visibility permitting request HOLDERNESS and VANESSA may be sailed for Sheerness to pass Sandhead buoy 0545/21. Speed after passing Dumpton buoy not to exceed 12 knots except if attacked by aircraft. Request fighter protection for whole passage may be asked for. (C. in C. Nore 1420/20 to C. in C. Portsmouth.).
2 Motor Launches are on patrol O.D.6 and 7 between No. 10 Buoy and 3 Mines South West of D Buoy. 2 Trawlers are on patrol O.D.5 between No.10 Buoy and No.1. Buoy. (V.A. Dover 2043/20 to HOLDERNESS, VANESSA.).

THUNDERBOLT. Adty., 2014/18, should THUNDERBOLT proceed to Reykjavik F.O.(S) will arrange with H.C.C.C. for aircraft flight restrictions to cover her approach. Request you order necessary restrictions for her departure.
(F.O.S. 1248/20 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.).

RESOLUTION. Admiralty 2208/13 and 1321/19. It is essential that RESOLUTION should be sailed as soon as possible. Departure of M.Ls. will have to be postponed until destroyer escort from 5th D.F. is available.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1403/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.).

/Admiralty.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.3.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

RESOLUTION.	Admiralty 1321/19. Earliest date RESOLUTION can be undocked is 28/3. Ship will be ready to sail P.M. 1st. April. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1747/20.).
SUFFOLK.	Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1515/20.).
O.24.	S/M O24 escorted by WELLINGTON may be met tonight proceeding Southward through Minches. (C. in C. W.A. 1547/20 to WANDERER, etc.).
UNION.	KINGSTON CEYLONITE will R/V with you N.1 buoy 220° Hurst Lowestoft Light 9.55 miles at 0645/21. (S.S. 1716/20 to UNION.).
1st.M/S.F.	1st. M.S.F. will be sailing as follows:- SHARPSHOOTER, SEAGULL, NIGER, and BRAMBLE at 0700. SHORA and SPINA at 1030/21. Request Dover will arrange Fighter Escort if considered necessary. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1930/20.).
LUDLOW. LEEDS.	Intend to sail LUDLOW, LEEDS, 1930/21, for Rosyth routed by 83, 160 and 175 Q.Z.S. Fighter protection not required. (C. in C. Plymouth 2007/20.).
UNDAUNTED.	You may meet Northbound convoy off Bell Rock and if set to the Northward you may meet 4 M/S Trawlers searching in vicinity of Milton Ness. Drifting Mines have been sighted in the vicinity of Bell Rock. (S.O. 2 013/20 to UNDAUNTED.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.3.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST.

EDINBURGH. Scapa departures F.O.C. 18th C.S. in EDINBURGH, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MATABELE, and MASHONA. (A.C.O.S.1100/20.).

NORFOLK. Arrived and sailed 1925 G.M.T. (F.O.Iceland 2025/20.).

NELSON.
HOOD.
QUEEN ELIZABETH.
NIGERIA. Steer to the Southward at maximum speed. (1st. S.L. 2107/20 to C. in C. H.F.).

Enemy position. Enemy Battle Cruisers in position 46° 50' N., 21° 25' W., Course 000°, Speed 20 knots at 1730Z. Destroyers in company search, attack, and shadow. (1st. S.L. 2142/20 to VETERAN.).

REVENGE
SHEFFIELD
ARETHUSA.
NIZAM
NAPIER
KIPLING
KASHMIR. Raise steam. (1st. S.L. 2155/20 and H.W.R.2225/20.).

UNION. UNION proceed forthwith through 049° N., 006° W., to patrol in vicinity 047° 40' N., 006° 10' W. (F.O.S. 2211/20 to UNION.).

TIGRIS. Proceed patrol off Bordeaux. Southern limi of your Zone is extended to 045°. N. (F.O.S. 2219/20 to TIGRIS.).
My 2142/20 and my 2143/20 are being passed to you for information. (D.S.O. 2235/20 to C.S.18. and R.A.D.).
Following is passed for information begins addressed REVENGE, SHEFFIELD, ARETHUSA, NIZAM, NAPIER, KIPLING, KASHMIR, repeated C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock from Adty. Raise Steam. T.O.O. 2155/20 ends. (D.S.O. 2244/20 to R.A.D. and C.S.18.).

/EDINBURGH.....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

EDINBURGH.	F.O. Force H's 1830/20. My position at 2330/20, 056° 36'N., 007° 22'W. Am proceeding in EDINBURGH with four TRIBAL destroyers course 290° 20 knots. This may conflict with escort arrangements for W.S.7. (C.S.18 2250/20 to C.in C. H.F.)
TIGRIS UNION UNBEATEN.	TIGRIS estimated in 047° 40'N., 006° W. proceeding to Patrol off Bordeaux. UNION estimated south of Portland proceeding to vicinity of 047° 40'N., 006° 10'W. UNBEATEN leaving Dartmouth approx. 0100/21 for vicinity of 048° 10'N., 006° 10'W. UNION and UNBEATEN are not to attack Submarines unless identity is certain. C. Object of patrols to attack GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST sighted in 046° 50'N., 021° 25'W. steering North 20 knots at 1730/20 and who may proceed Brest or Bordeaux. (F.O.S. 2251/20).
EDINBURGH.	Proceed with destroyers in company towards position 54° N., 20° W. (1st S.L. 2247/20 to C.S.18).
Operation G.W. (3rd M/L.F. to Gibraltar.	Communication orders for M.L's. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1119/20).
Interception of Norwegian Whalers.	Description of Norwegian Whale Oil factories. SOLGLIMT, OLE WEGGER, PELAGOS. (D.D.I.C. 1151/20 and 1857/20 to HILARY).

MOST SECRET.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

GEIR. — Submarine referred to was TORBAY whose suspicions were aroused by freshly painted ICELANDIC markings and deep draught. No foundation in story of encounter with similar trawler the day before. (F.O.S.1324/20).

M.T.B's off Ijmuiden. — 3 M.T.B's leaving Harwich 1800 today to operate near 52° 26'N., 4° 20'E. returning Harwich at daylight. (C.in C. Nore, 1636/20).
3 M.T.B's leaving Harwich 1800/20 for Eastward. They have been warned to keep clear of F.S.39A. when returning. (C.in C. Nore, 1657/20 to Capt: D.16).

MOST SECRET.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.	My 1836/19. First sortie R.3. delayed. Will be flown from 1030/20 to 1430/20. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0716/20).
	My 2312/19. Add Patrol UNST. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0746/20).
	My 1430/17/3. No sunderland A/C available today. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1103/20 to R.A.M.L.)
	800. Patrol R.3. cancelled for today owing to lack of visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1113/20).
	Aircraft returned from patrol nothing to report. (F.O.Iceland, 1810/20).
Notice for Fighter Protection.	Request commanders in Chief may be asked to make signals with as much notice as possible. (H.Q.F.C.1000/20).
Information of submarine movements.	A.C.O.S. 1104/19. Am I correct in assuming that any Aircraft may encounter our own submarines in this area are operated by Coastal Command and are kept informed of submarine movements and bombing restrictions by H.Q.C.C. (F.O.S. 1246/20 to H.Q.C.C.)
S.N.69. Fighter Protection.	My 1430/17/3. No fighter protection available today Thursday. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1406/20 to R.A.M.L.)
Type Catalina A/C.	Type Catalina aircraft ex American PBY Commence operating as A/S Patrol on 20/3. They are large 2 engined monoplane flying boats with retracting wing float and square wing tips. They carry 4 depth charges and no R/T at present. (C.in C. W.A. 1703/20).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

H.A.l. W.R.l.	H.A.l. completed and ready for operation. Operation of W.R.l. suspended until 25/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2350/20).

Enemy Air Activity.

HELVELLYN.	(Eagle Ship) Sunk by enemy action in Surrey Commercial Dock at 2300. Ship on even keel. Casualties. (F.O.I.C. London, 0037/20).
Convoy F.S.Odd.	One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy. My P.C. and S. 51° 45'N., 1° 30'E. 225°, 7 knots. (Convoy Escort 1025/20).
Deptford R.V.Yard and Offices destroyed. CATERINA (Harlow defence Patrol Craft) damaged.	Royal Victoria Yard practically destroyed in Raid 19/20 March. Incendiaries in large numbers followed by H.E. Several casualties including some fatal. (Supt: RVYY. Deptford, Recd. 1100/20). In enemy air attack last night CATERINA at Deptford buoys sustained damage from near miss. The offices of D.E.M.S., S.I.D.G., E.R.O., F.O.G.O., F.O.G.M.O., O.C.A.S. in Green and Silley Weir are totally destroyed and all documents burnt. Work will not be affected. Naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. London, 1220/20).
Convoy F.S.	Fighters being sent to F.S.Convoy N. of Tyne. (Rosyth W/T 1454/20).
BRITOMART (bombed 15/3).	My 1917/17. Inspection of bomb damage has revealed following defects. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1647/20).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

YOUNG MUN
CHICO
shot
down
aircraft.

An enemy aircraft probably JU.88 was shot down southward of Folkestone about 1410 today by H.M.Drifter YOUNG MUN, H.M.Yacht CHICO. Lewis Gunner of YOUNG MUN continued to fire until aircraft was within 50 feet. Aircraft continued dive carrying away mizzen mast and disintegrating alongside. No survivors. No casualties in H.M. Ships.
(V.A.Dover, 1808/20).

CIESZYN.

(Polish 1386 tons). AAAA. Bombed 20 from Falmouth.
(Portishead Radio 1837/20).
CIESZYN bombed and sunk by two enemy aircraft at 1940/20 five miles south of Falmouth.
All saved, one W.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 2044/20).

A/C off
Iceland
on 19/3.

F.O.Iceland's 1947/19. These aircraft are believed to be ship borne type.
(D.D.I.C. 1935/20).

Ramsgate
Bombed.

(No Naval damage reported.) At 1120/20. It is possible that the target was that part of the inner harbour where 4 M.T.B's were berthed up to 1730 the previous afternoon.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 2245/20).

Clyde.
Air-Raid
Damage.

My 2315/19. Fire at Old Kilpatrick Oil installation now extinguished. Further reports from affected yards are as follows. Sweeping operations on the River are being continued, but the River is opened to traffic for stated periods. No further damage to ships has been reported.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2314/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

G.U. — Operation G U completed. Nothing to report. (D.20 0630/20).
My 1869/19. Returned (M/L's, 156,180,177,160) (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0631/20).

Z.M.E.24. — Operation Z M E 24 completed. (PLOVER 0630/20).

Channel Clearance Sweep. — Mine clearance operations 19/3. Details. Three mines cut in following positions. (V.A. Dover 0929/20).

PARRACOMBE (Mined 19/3) — My 1906/19. PARRACOMBE now sailed. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0937/20).

Moray Firth. Search of War Channel. — Commencing at Kinnaird Head at 0700/24 available ships of 5th M.S.F. are to carry out an Oropesa search from Kinnaird Head to Duncansby Head and from Duncansby Head to Kinnaird Head as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 0938/20).

River Thames. — All traffic on River Thames is to cease between Tower Pier and Barking Creek. (P.O.I.C. London, 1032/20). 0815 exploded by Skid magnetic mine off Barking Creek. Further mines suspected off Deptford. Traffic suspended from Tower Pier to Barking Creek. (P.O.I.C. London 1100/20).

EINAR JARL (Now believed mined 17/3). — N.C.S.O. Aberdeen's 1625/18. EINAR JARL sank at 2050/17/3 in 56° 17.1/2' N. 02° 18' W. whilst in convoy E.N.86A. Statement that loss was due to enemy air action is not supported by escorting destroyer WESTMINSTER and other ships in the convoy, and loss must now be attributed to floating mine. (C.in C. Rosyth 1341/20).

Thames Estuary. — One S.A.Mine detonated at 1134/20 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1407/20).

Plymouth — Two mines exploded spontaneously on 19/3 as follows. It is considered that B was laid 12/1/41. (C.in C. Plymouth 1708/20).

/ Summary of Aircraft ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

(Contd.)	Summary of Aircraft activity in Thames Estuary for night 19/20. Objects dropped and Explosion heard. (S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1721/20).
Liverpool.	My 1400/16. Intend opening Port of Liverpool at 0700/21. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1800/20).
Operation Z.M.E.25.	To be carried out on night of 22 March or as soon after as practicable. Details. (V.C.N.S. 2010/20).
B.S.52.	KITTIWAKE and LA MELPOMENE detailed as escort for BS 52. E.T.A. Number A.M./22. Carry out operation as soon after this as practicable. (C.in C. Nore 2136/20 to TEVIOT BANK).

MOST SECRET.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Bearings of E/Boats.	(Yarmouth W/T 0001/20, 0019/20, 0034/20, 0103/20, 0135/20, 0142/20, 0210/20.
Surface ship.	Following bearing indicating German surface ship received at 1723/19 G.M.T. Halifax 037/1 Text. QQ, remainder missed. (D.D.I.C. 0502/20).
Shipping leaving Gothenburg 18/3.	Your 1621/19. Was ice thaw in the Sound or Oslo Fjord or some other reason the cause of these ships' departure? 2. What was the type and average size of the ships and where were they bound for? 3. Has state of readiness of Swedish Fleet altered recently? (D.N.I. 1434/20 to N.A.Stockholm).
5 E/Boats off the Hague.	5 E/Boats bearing 180° 2 miles, course 270° My position 52° 10'N., 3° 40'E. (?C.in C. Nore, 1723/20 to GUILLEMOT) (A/C Duty N 1740/20 to A/C 90 Sqdn).
URD.	N.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1927/19 and C.in C. Rosyth's 2137/19. The description of URD appears to be incorrect as she is a sailing vessel 40 feet in length, broad in the beam, painted black and has the letter R in her Registration number. Further information is that she was cruising north along the coast with the intention of slipping over to this country for the purpose of landing Jensen and the German who are both trained and equipped for sabotage. (D.N.I. 2021/20).
TAIPING. TARONGA.	My 1130/6/3, 2332/12/3. Further report has been received graded B.2., that Raiders TAIPING and TARONGA were expected to leave Oslo together p.m./20. (D.D.I.C. 2043/20). My 1946/10 and 1024/13. It is now reported ships will leave together on 20/3. (F.O.S. 2233/20 to Submarines Area A).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats. E/Boats suspected at 7 buoy at 2045. (C.in C. Nore, 2119/20).
2 Enemy M.T.B's bearing 090° my position 156° 30 miles from outer Dowsing L.V. (SOUTHDOWN 2243/20).

Miscellaneous.

Position E. F.743 LW.A.C.I. Volume 2 Section A. Page two item four column four and Section D. Part 3 paragraph twenty five. The correct position is 53 degrees 46'N., 05 degrees 08' 30" West. In signals for brevity, this position is to be referred to as position E. (C.in C. W.A. 1750/20).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

New Position.

My 1831/19 and 1855/19. W.A.C.I. Vol. II Sec. D Part 3 Para.10 In future paragraph E. of "MEET" signal will contain a secret position (e.g. BUTTERCUP 070° 00'N., 003° 00'W.)by which Commodore refers to convoy's position in terms of bearings and distance. Subsequent paragrap MEET signals are to be re-lettered accordingly.
(C.in C. W.A. 1250/20).

Blue Stern Lights.

A trial, blue stern lights is to be carried out in Convoy F.N.42 due to leave Southend 25/3. Requested that a report on the blue stern lights may be forwarded by C.O. of escorts direct to D.T.D. as early as possible.
(D.T.D. 1904/20 to C.in C's Nore, Rosyth, etc.)

East Coast Convoys.

Your 1028/15/3. (E.N.Convoys to be replaced by E.C.Convoys to run from Southend to Clyde). Intend to operate the following timetables for East Coast Convoys, E.C. and F.N. Convoys using QZS 40, and F.S.Convoys using QZS 172. (Details).
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1925/20 to Admty).
As a measure of security, request you will arrange to prevent any non-essential messages being made by W/T to the escort of W.S.7. once the latter has sailed.

2. Signals concerning this convoy, passed between Simonstown, Freetown, Gibraltar, and U.K. are to be passed by cable whenever time permits.
(D.S.D. 1812/20).

Convoys D.S. and S.D. (Clyde to Iceland Ferry Service).

Particulars.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1519/20).
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ERODONA (British Tanker, 6207 tons) FERM (Swedish, 1026 tons).	My 2359/19. PETUNIA and WELLAND ordered to close you in 61° 37'N., 11° 07'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0051/20 to BRIGAND)
REYKJABOR. AUGVALD.	Arrival PIMPERNEL with 2 survivors from Icelandic ship REYKJABOR and 1 survivor Norwegian ship AUGVALD. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0750/20).
JOAN MARGARET.	(Duty Boat) Regret to report loss. One survivor (Eng. 6). (Grimsby Base 1530/20).
JADDEN. 2 Lifeboats sighted.	Polish motor vessel KORAB II on passage Iceland to Scrabster for onward routeing reports that in position 61 degrees 14'N., 11 degrees 40'W. at 1230/18 she sighted two steel lifeboats one of which was salvaged. Two torches found were still burning. Name on lifeboat S.S. JADDEN (A.C.O.S. 1634/20).
TABARKA. (French 2624 tons).	Escorting TABARKA. E.T.A. 058° 42'N., 003° 23'W. 0600/21. Speed made good 7 knots. (AUBRIETIA 1732/20).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Enemy Unit

D/F bearing at 0217/20 G.M.T. indicated German surface craft. (F.O.C.N.A. 0620/20 to N.A.Station)
D/F Bearing of unknown enemy unit on 8290 Kc/s at 0940 was 277° from Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A., 0959/20 to N.A.Station)
Your 0959/20, request traffic. (D.D.I.C. 1301/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Enemy surface unit probably within 50 miles either side of a line joining 30° N., 26°W and 19° N., 33° W., at 0217/20 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 1025/20 to SEVERN, F.O.C.N.A.etc)
Admty. 1025/20 is passed for information (F.O.C.N.A., 1151/20 to N.A.Station)
My 1025/20. Additional bearings suggest the unit is to the south of Cape Verde Islands. Position indefinite. (D.D.I.C. 1841/20 to SEVERN, etc.)
Your 0959/20, 1009/20 and 1420/20, transmission believed to be from Hilo Hawaii (D.D.I.C., 1954/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation G.W.

Your 1825/19. Concur. (F.O.C.N.A., 1650/20 to C. in C., Plymouth.

SCHARNHORST B.C's position

P, C and S of 2 German SCHARNHORST class Battle Cruisers 046° 50' N., 021° 25' W., 000° 20 knots at 1730 Z. P,C and S of RENOWN and ARK ROYAL 045° 000° N., 019° 45W., 350° 27'knots at 1900 Z. Fuel remaining 45%. (C.O.Force H., 1830/20 to Admty.)

Submarine Positions

Position of submarines at 1200/21 and movements for 24 hours.
(A) OLYMPUS with H.G. 56
(B) PANDORA in company O.G. 55 arriving Gibraltar a.m/21.
(C) Netherlands S/M O.23 leaving Gibraltar 0815 to eastward for exercises with FORESTER, GENTIAN (Corrupt group) JONQUIL returning Gibraltar about 1800. (F.O.C.N.A. 1905/20 to N.A.Station)

Operation "Ration"

To be carried out as soon as forces are available. Ships carrying food only are to be detained once the nature of cargo has been ascertained. (D.O.D. (F) 1910/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Photographs...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Photographs of German Battle Cruisers	B.C. Teneriffe's 1520/17 Photographs are a complete failure as films arrived entirely exposed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1950/20)
SS BELLONIA (German)	Arrived 19/3. (Valencia T.H.I. 2200/20)
Search for SCHARNHORST, Force H., CILICIA.	My 1830, not to C.S. 10 and VETERAN. Night air shadowing and attack prevented by low visibility. Intend dawn search from 050° N., 020° W., from 240° through North to 040° covering S.L. 67, believed 8 hours late. If search proves negative intend returning to Gibraltar searching on passage. E.T.A. a.m./14. CILICIA searching suspicious merchant ship 045° N., 027° W Have intercepted BIANCA and SAN CASIMIRO. Both (?scuttled) (?diverted). My p.c. and s are 045° 50' N., 020° 20' W., 035° 25 knots (S.O.Force H., 2110Z/20 to Admty.)
Orders to C.S.10.	Enemy battle cruisers in 46° 50' N., 21° 25' W., steering 000° speed 20 knots at 1730Z/20. Endeavour to gain touch two hours after daylight and shadow. (1st S.L. 2143/20 to C.S. 10) Note: KENYA (flag C.S.10) left Plymouth 1600/17 to relieve Force H. as ocean escort for S.L. 67. MAURITIUS arrived Freetown 16/3; was to relieve MALAYA with S.L. 68 on 26/3.
CILICIA	Remain in company with Convoy until further orders. (1st S.L. 2233/20 to CILICIA) Your 2233/20. My position 2200 Zone + 1 046° 43' N., 028° 21 W. Left Convoy at 1500 Zone + 1/19 by order of F.O. Force H. (CILICIA 2231Z/20 to Admty.)
O.G. 56	Steer 180° (D.T.D. 2257/20 to ENCHANTRESS)
Enemy Unit	By D/F at 2214 B.S.T. unidentified enemy surface unit bearing Cupar 220/3 Baldock 251/1. (D.D.I.C. 2318/20 to C. in C., H.F. S.O. Foces H., etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Takoradi	Information required as to largest sized M.V's as regards length and draught which can be berthed alongside at Takoradi. (1st S.L. 0015/20 to C. in C., S.A.) Your 0015/20, 500 ft long 28 feet draught. A longer ship could be berthed if draught does not exceed 26 feet. Report forwarded to D.N.I. by S.O. (I) Freetown on 15/1/1941 contains full information of harbour facilities. (C. in C., S.A., 2335/20 to Admty.)
Suspicious Portuguese Tanker.	BULOLO's 2112/17. Ascertain from C.O. whether it would not have been possible to investigate Portuguese Tanker after having forced her to make a large alteration of course at full speed, and allowing some time to elapse before attempting to board. (D.O.D. 0124/20 to C. in C., S.A.)
FRANCO MARTELLI AIDA LAURO	Fully loaded Italian tanker FRANCO MARTELLI has taken in 500 tons of fresh water, provisions etc. Italian ship AIDA LAURO, with full cargo of coal, is now bunkering outstanding ship BUTTERFLY and indication is that remainder will also receive bunkers. General impression is of unusual activity. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1002/20 to Admty.)
French Repatriation	Re French Native troops and seamen for repatriation to Madagascar. (Consul-General Lourenco, 1040/20 to Embassy, Lisbon, N.O.I.C., Simonstown 2140B/20)
German Unit BULOLO MAURITIUS SEVERN	Admty 2011/19 D/F. bearing at 0217/20 indicate possibilities of German surface unit within 200 miles position 015° N., 026° W., BULOLO is proceeding through 022° 20' N., 035° 00' W., at 0200/22. MAURITIUS will pass through 014° 28' N., 025° 40' W., at 1700/22 thence northbound with NARKUNDA in company SEVERN will be (? approx) position 012° 55' N., 027° 00' W a.m./23 proceeding Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1141N/20 to MALAYA, MAURITIUS, BULOLO, Force X.)

/W.S. 8.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

W.S. 8. — Your 2211/19. Approximate sailing date (D.O.D. F. to C. in C., S.A., 1305/20) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Unit — D/F bearing at 0217/20 indicates possibility enemy surface unit within 200 miles of 015° N., 026° W., (C. in C., S.A., 1455N/20 to S.A. Station)

Unusual activity of Italian Ships at Pernambuco — Pernambuco reports unusual activity of Italian merchant ships there. Tanker FRANCO MARTELLI has taken 500 tons of fresh water provisions etc., SS BUTTERFLY is now bunkering from SS AIDA LAURO and indication is that remaining will also receive bunkers. (S.O. (I) Montevideo 1854Z/20)

SS TUSCAN STAR — Your 1626/19 TUSCAN STAR has not arrived my 1333/14 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 2333/20)

W.S. 7. — My 1427/15. (LLANGIBBY CASTLE returning for repairs to Freetown) Can another ship be sent in W.S. 7 to take troops in LLANGIBBY CASTLE as stated ship will not be able to go more that 10 knots after repairing at Freetown 1100 personnel on board. Very undesirable to escort separately and any A.M.C. available is required for patrol. (C. in C., S.A., 2057/20 to Admty.)

MALAYA Torpedoed — Have been struck by a torpedo position 020° 02' N., 025° 55' W. (MALAYA, 2331Z/20 to C. in C., S.A.)
Have been torpedoed in position 020° 02'N 025° 55' W., Return to me. (MALAYA 2355Z/20 to MARGUERITE, CROCUS)
Take no further action my 2355Z/20 (MALAYA 0003Z/21 to CROCUS)
My course 085° 7 knots (MALAYA 0018Z/21 to MARGUERITE)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Services of Swordfish Aircraft	H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E.'s 1314/18, 1211/17, 1136/17. Admty. Congratulations. Request information as to composition and location of Sqdn.(D.N.A.D. 0251/20 to C. in C.Med.)
EAGLE's Aircraft GNAT	Your 1737/19. (No trace in W/R) EAGLE'S Swordfish are at your disposal now to move to appropriate point of Red Sea coast for R/C. GNAT (? at present Suez) (C. in C., Med., 0746/20 to C. in C., E.I.) Reply, 1208Z/20, see East Indies.
Tripoli Bombed	Operational Summary No 283 up to 1200 hours 20.3.41. 1. Cyrenaica, night 18/19, 4 Wellingtons dropped 9500 lbs bombs Tripoli Harbour starting 4 large fires along quays 1 fire with 2 explosions near military stores. Others fell among shipping. (H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E., 1147/20)
Submarines to attack Transports	If convoy is escorted by cruiser primary object is attack on transport. (Capt. S.1. 1153/20 to URSULA, UTMOST)
RORQUAL	Proceed through 035° 22' 014° 13' and 035° 32' 114° 13' to arrive off Grand Harbour 0700B/22. (Cdr. S.1., 1215/20, to RORQUAL)
Greek Submarines REGENT	My 1209/18 and my 2323/19 Greek submarines are operating between 040° 00' and 042° 20'. Operate as necessary to Northward of this zone. Attention is called to the fact that there is no identification signal for use between British/Greek submarines. Reference C.A.F.O. 422/40 the following German ships are believed to be in the Adriatic (list) (Capt. S.1., 1345/20 to REGENT)
Enemy Convoy	At 0945B/20 convoy of six merchant ships escorted by four destroyers passes Kelibia Roads Light Southwards. (Cdr. S.1. 1403/20 to URSULA, UTMOST)

/UTMOST.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

UTMOST URSULA	At 0001/21 UTMOST is to proceed to Area O 035° 00' 012° 10', 000° 40 miles, but is not to enter it before 0600/21. URSULA proceed through 035° 30' 012° 50' and 036° 30' 012° 20' to carry out operation SICH (As received) in Area L 036° 00' 010° 00' 000°. 120 miles, 95 miles. Time zone minus 2. (Cdr. S.1. 1441/20 to UTMOST, URSULA)
Degaussing Greek Ships	Your 2035/19 second sentence reply no average depth in canal is 32½ feet. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area 1803/20)
Enemy Units	Air reconnaissance report Sicilian Channel 20/3. (A) One M.V. 5,000 ton, 036° 20' N., 012° 20' E., course 270° at 1046. (B) One large M.V. 037° 10' N., 011° 40' E., course 180° at 1208. (C) 4 D.R. 5 large M.V's 20' N.W. of Pantellaria, course 350° with flying boat escort at 1215. All times G.M.T. (V.A.Malta, 1811/20 to C. in C., Mediterranean, URSULA, UTMOST)
Suez Canal, ILLUSTRIOUS	Situation at 2000/20. ILLUSTRIOUS and 25 M.V's arrived Suez. 17 M.V's arrived Port Said. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal 1921/20)
?	Your 1241/20.* Crew is safe. Have salvaged steamer today and she is now in Jaffa. I am waiting for further report as to her damage. (N.O.I.C., Haifa. 2032/20 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.) *(Not received in Admiralty, message called for.)
Oil Pipe Line	Your 1950/16 (Provision of oil pipe line from Suez to Port Said) Proposal is being urgently examined. If scheme is approved it will probably be found more expedient and more expeditious to obtain required material direct from U.S.A. (P.S. to Secretary 2118/20 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

B.N. 22.

Bombay, ANTENOR left with B.N. 22. (S.O.1., Bombay, 0601/20)

Cargo Space in Transports

As Government cargo situation from Colombo to Suez is serious request consideration of use of any available cargo space in U.S. 10 ships or subsequent on-carrying transports. (S.S.T.O. Colombo 0716Z/20 to D. of S.T., A.C.N.B)

CAPETOWN

My 0702/15. Arrival of CAPETOWN at Bombay is postponed indefinitely for the present. She is temporarily attached to Red Sea Force. (C. in C., E.I., 0746Z /20)

Perim Patrol

Departure KIMBERLEY for Perim Patrol. (N.O.I.C., Aden 08252/20)

EAGLE's Aircraft

Your 0746/20. Thank you. I have asked R.A.F. whether facilities can be given to EAGLE's 18 aircraft to operate from Port Sudan and/or Hurghada and whether bombs would be available. Pending reply, request plan be made to fly aircraft to those bases and that I may be informed the earliest time they could arrive. (C. in C., E.I., 1208Z/20 to C. in C., Med)

ILLUSTRIOUS S.U. 2.

S.B.N.O. Suez 1933/19* Subject to S.N.O.R.S. being able to arrange single destroyer escort from about 020° N., request ILLUSTRIOUS be sailedat best speed as soon as possible for Aden. Intend ILLUSTRIOUS to join Convoy S.U. 2 in vicinity Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 1258/20 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal S.N.O.R.S.)
* (re vessels from Suez arrived)
C. in C., E.I., 1258/20 can be arranged. Request R/V. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 1513Z/20 to S.B.N.O. Suez)

MOST SECRET

20.3.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

VILLE DE VERDUN — Inspector General Colonies and Finances Cazeaux with strong pro-British leaning has left Saigon for France on 9/3 by SS VILLE DE VERDUN. Propose his ship be intercepted. (C. in C., China, 09592/20 to Admty.)

Enemy Units — My 0501/18. Bearings obtained of one Y.R. on 19/3 are conflicting. Units probably in vicinity of Kobe. An additional Italian unit call sign four F.U. fixed by D/F p.m./19 within 250 miles radius of 023° 30' N., 136° E., (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 15553/20)

ASAKA MARU — Special service ship ASAKA of Imperial Japanese Navy formerly merchant ship ASAKA MARU, 7298 tons, which left Bilbao 17/3 is transporting enemy exports to Japan. Although Japanese Govt. have been informed that we cannot agree to her calling at a British port unless she submits to contraband control, the Japanese Govt. have mentioned possibility of ship fuelling at Colombo. If ship does call at Colombo or any British port where naval authorities are in charge she should be informed that no facilities can be given to ship nor can we agree to ship remaining in port unless she is willing to undergo contraband control including examination for enemy exports. No fuel or other supplies should be given, nor should the crew be permitted to land. An immediate report should be made to Admiralty. (Head of M. 1829/20 to C in C's China, A.W.I., S.A., W.A., E.I., etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

U.S. C.G. Cutters	My 1550/14. Have you any information with regard to the ten coastguard cutters or whether there is any question of giving us destroyers in lieu? (Head of M. 0036/20 to N.A.Washington)
KANTARA	Ministry of Shipping 1235/17. British ship KANTARA not arrived Barbados. (S.O.I., Jamaica 1104/20 to Admty., C. in C., A.W.I.)
WORCESTERSHIRE	Should leave S.C. 26 as convenient after dark before reaching R.V. with inward local escort. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1142/20)
Convoy S.C. 26	Halifax departure WORCESTERSHIRE Ocean Escort S.C.+26 (S.O(I) Halifax 1408/20)
Suspicious ship sighted by GEISHA	Norwegian ship GEISHA reports sighted suspicious ship at 1800/8 in 031 N., 059 30 W., course East. Ship altered course to follow GEISHA who altered course and lost during dark hours. No description available. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1625/20)

Australia

Contraband Control	In Far East War it is not intended to establish Contraband Control Service in Australia as effort would be out of all proportion to resources available and Contraband Control likely to ne necessary. (A.C.N.B., 0306Z/20 to Admty.)
ILE DE FRANCE	Your 1807/18. Following is a repetition of my 0235/14 (not previously received) Your 2334/12, embarkation cannot take place at Fremantle. Intend ILE DE FRANCE embark troops Melbourne (ends) (Anticipated date of sailing Sydney) (A.C.N.B., 0330Z/20 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Summary

My 1641/11/1. Following periodical summary of anti-U-Boat campaign for period 10/2 to 4/3. (D.T.D., 0034/20 to A.I.G. 47 and 48 for N.C.S.O's) Original in Lion Copy Only.

Ships Attacked

MALAYA — Torpedoed at 2331Z/20. See South Atlantic.

ERODONA — British tanker, 6207 tons, in Convoy H.X. 112, probably torpedoed. 21 survivors picked up in 61.36 N., 11.50 W., on 19/3 (D.S. 562)

REYKJABORG (Torpedoed ? 11/3) — Icelandic, 687 tons, from Reykjavik to Fleetwood, reported sunk off Hebrides, possibly by submarine, about 11/3. 2 wounded survivors landed Greenock. (D.S.562)

BEDUIN (Torpedoed 16/3) — Your 1450/19 (N.T. in W.R.) Stern of BEDUIN has sunk in position 061° 07' N., 010°50'W. Request permission to proceed to Thorshaven. Leaky Boiler Tubes and short of Feed-water. (NORTHERN SKY 0800/20 to S.O.N.T.)
BEDUIN, in H.X. 112, probably torpedoed at about 2200/16 in approx. 61.20 N., 11.55 W. (D.S. 563)

FERM — Weather conditions to bad to board FERM ZWARTZEE and PRUDENCE standing by with us. JIER sunk p.m/15. Owing to condition of some survivors and weather, too bad transfer. (BRIGAND, 0820/20 to N.O.I.C., Greenock)
Owing to condition of 2 survivors am returning to base leaving VASCAMA, PRUDENT and ZWART ZEE with FERM. (BRIGAND, 0950/20) *
My 2309/19. Fleet Tug BRIGAND is returning with survivors. Relieve (VASCAMA) standing by ZWARTE ZEE PRUDENT and FERM. (C. in C., W.A., 1426/20 to PETUNIA, WELLARD)
*(To N.O.I.C. Greenock C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0016	53° N., 15° - 16° W., Very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 562)
0755	51.33 N., 15-42 W., reported by A/C (D.S.562
0732	47° N., 5° - 6° W., Very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 562)
1521	55°-56° N., 17°-20° W., Indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 563)
1843	55° - 56° N., 19°-21° W., Indefinte (Italian) (D.S. 563)
1940	53.30 N., 17.30 W. Indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 563)
2018 } 2325 }	55.30 N., 18.30 W., Indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 563)
1941	47° N., 35° W. Indefinite (German) (D.S.563)
1517	Cape Blanco Area Very indefinite (German) (D.S. 563)
2354	Cape Verde Islands Area Very indefinite (German) (D.S. 563)
1909	Bay of Biscay Area Very indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 563)
0755	Catalina Flying Boat AH 537 signalled at 0655 G.M.T. sighted submarine position 51.33 N., 15.42 W., course 315°, speed 10 knots, dived immediately. (C.A.M.C., Gloucester, 0742/20 to Admty.) (D.D.I.C. 1003/20 to C. in C., W.A., etc.)
0908 } 1517 }	At 0808 and 1417 G.M.T. D/F indications that SL 68 is being shadowed by German U-Boat. (D.D.I.C., 1631/20 to MALAYA) Estimated one Italian U-Boat S.W. of Brest en route for Bordeaux. (F.O.S. 1517/20 to TIGRIS)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C., 1342/20 and 2300/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.3.1941.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By WALKER 19/3

Amending his 2018/19 (Capt. D. Liverpool 0936/20)

By VANOC 17/3

VANOC's report has little to add to Capt. D. Liverpool's 2018/19 (re attack on H.X. 112) except that submarine attacked between 0137 and 0200, was eventually located on surface by A.S.V. which led to its destruction by ramming. (C. in C., W.A., 1721/20 to Admty.)
Add to my 1721/20. 1 spare commanding officer and 5 ratings were taken prisoner. (C. in C., W.A. 1803/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

A.P. Vessels.

M/L Flotillas are now being formed and already strengthen considerably our coastal forces. Some of the less efficient A.P. craft are to be paid off.

Defence Against E/Boats

C. in C. Nore does not consider that M.L's are ever likely to be of much value on the East Coast against E/Boats, but pending the arrival of reinforcements he would like to have 10 or 12 M/Ls for trial.

Anti E/Boat patrols were carried out last night.

M.T.B. patrols off Dutch Coast

Patrol by M.T.B's off Ijmuiden last night was cancelled on account of low visibility.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU

Enemy sighted by Force H. (S.L. 67)

At 2004/20 a signal was received at the Admiralty from Force H. (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL) which had left Convoy S.L. 67 at 1600/19 to search for ANTARKTIS and had just intercepted BIANCA and SAN CASIMIRO (See North Atlantic) that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were sighted at 1730Z/in 46° 50' W., 21° 25' W (247° 570 miles Finisterre).

Touch with enemy lost

Course 0° speed 20 knots. Force H was about 160 miles S.E. of this position at the time. Low visibility prevented night shadowing and attack by aircraft and Admiral Somerville intended to make a dawn search, whilst covering the convoy, and if this was negative, to return to Gibraltar; KELLY, KELVIN and JACKAL at Plymouth were ordered to raise steam and proceed towards Gibraltar to screen Force H. in if necessary. At the time of sighting the enemy Force H had 45% of fuel remaining.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.
(Contd)

C.in C. H.F. and B.C.1. EDINBURGH, Destroyers to return to O.B.298. KENYA. Submarines. O.G.56. Air Searches.

The following dispositions were made. C.in C. H.F. who was at sea between Iceland and Faeroes with NELSON, HOOD, QUEEN ELIZABETH and NIGERIA screened by 6 destroyers, was instructed to steer southward at maximum speed (2107/20). C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with 4 tribals, who had left Scapa at 1100/20 for the Clyde was ordered to proceed towards position 54° N., 20° W. VETERAN with VERITY, MANSFIELD, CHELSEA HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HURRICANE, WOLSEY who left Convoy O.B.298 on its dispersal yesterday evening were ordered to search but were later ordered to return to the convoy unless they were shadowing the enemy. C.S.10 (KENYA) who left Plymouth 10/3 to relieve Force H as escort for S.L.67 was ordered to try to gain touch with the enemy after daylight today; failing in this, he was ordered at 1337 to join Convoy H.G.56 and escort it to the Clyde (at 1200/21 H.G. 56 was estimated to be in 41° N., 20° 40'W. steering 352° at 5½ knots.) Submarine TIGRIS was ordered to patrol off Bordeaux and UNION and UNBEATEN off Lorient. Convoy O.G.56 was ordered to steer to the Southward. Three Bomber Squadrons were held in readiness to attack if the enemy were located. Special air searches were arranged for today, though fog caused partial curtailment. At 1330, as there was no further news of the enemy battle cruisers, C.in C. Home Fleet was given liberty to act at his discretion.

C.in C. Home Fleet.

EDINBURGH.

At 1332 instructions were sent to C.S.18 (EDINBURGH) to return to the Clyde unless he heard news of the enemy

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Search for SCHARNHORST AND GNEISENAU. (Contd.)

Enemy Battle Cruisers sighted by aircraft. D.5. to intercept.

At 2021 today aircraft carrying out searches off the French West Coast ports reported 2 battleships (later reported as 2 cruisers) 1 destroyer, in 47° 17'N., 7° 13'W. (about 150 miles W. by S. of Lorient), steering East at 20 knots. KELLY (Capt: D.5.) KELVIN and JACKAL, who left Plymouth at 1350 today to screen Force H in to Gibraltar, were ordered at 2049/21 (received 2118/21) to intercept and at once increased speed to 30 knots and steered for Brest as this seemed the most likely destination and it was impossible to reach St. Nazaire in daylight

U/Boat.

A U/Boat was sighted at 1250 today in 47° N., 10° W, steering west.

British Air Activity.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Special air searches were ordered for today, to cover the approaches to the French West Coast ports and the N.W. Approaches. Fog interfered with the former. Certain patrols from Iceland subsequent to 1200 today were cancelled owing to poor visibility.

Blenheims of Bomber Command today secured a hit on the stern of a 5000 ton tanker escorted by 4 destroyers off the Belgian Coast.

/The submarine

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

The Submarine Base at Lorient was attacked by 22 aircraft of Bomber Command last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Small Coaster MILLISLE was bombed and sunk off Helwick L.V. in the Bristol Channel.
S.S. LONDON II was bombed and sunk today near Lundy Island.

S.S. DASHWOOD which ran aground in the Thames Estuary today, was bombed and slightly damaged during the night.

8

Attack on Plymouth.

Plymouth was attacked last night by about 100 enemy aircraft. Damage was caused to Naval Establishments but damage in the dockyard was slight. There were some 40 naval casualties but none so far reported killed.
S.S. MARI II was sunk alongside Plymouth Coal Coy's. berth as result of concussion.

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

19 aircraft laid mines last night off Brest, 10 off Lorie nt and 8 off St. Nazaire.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the East Coast last night.

S.S. HALO was mined and sunk opposite Margaret Ness in the Thames this evening.

Mines were detonated today off Milford Haven, Swansea and Avonmouth.

The Clyde is now, open without restriction. Liverpool was opened at 0700 today and the Thames at 1300.

S.S. VIRMA sunk.

The Finnish Wireless announces that the Finnish s.s. VIRMA has been sunk. The crew were taken to Cuxhaven, so it is presumed the ship was sunk at the mouth of the Elbe.

8

North Atlantic.

Torpedoing of MALAYA 20/3.

At 02452 today MALAYA with Convoy S.L.68 was in 19° 57'N., 25° 35'W. steering 085° at 7 knots; he intended to turn the convoy north at daylight. At 0217 MAURITIUS, who arrived at Freetown 16/3 and was to relieve MALAYA as escort

/of convoy

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

of Convoy S.L.68 on 26/3 was ordered to join the convoy as soon as possible. C.in C. S.A. arranged for WISHART and VIDETTE, who are due at Bathurst tomorrow morning, to fuel and proceed to MALAYA; and by orders of C.in C. N.A. FORESIGHT and FORTUNE who were returning to Gibraltar with FEARLESS and WRESTLER were also ordered to proceed to MALAYA, DELPHINIUM was also sent, and CROCUS and MARGUERITE returned to the Convoy. At 2230 FORESTER and FEARLESS also left Gibraltar to R/V with MALAYA.

At 0052/21 CLAN OGILVY in Convoy 68 S.L was torpedoed in 20° 4'N., 25° 45'W. (350° St. Antonio Is. (Cape Verde Is.) 182 miles).

Convoy S.L.68 dispersed before dark and ships proceeded independently for Trinidad, Bermuda or Halifax, MALAYA left the convoy, after dispersal and steered to R/V with destroyers from Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal.

The congestion at Port Said and Suez has been cleared and Canal traffic is proceeding normally. ILLUSTRIOUS left Suez this morning, southbound.

DEFENDER was bombed off Malta today, but no damage is reported.

8

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Irish Sea Escort Force VIRGINIA.

My 1907/20. VIRGINIA will not be required for this duty at present. (C. in C. W.A. 1130/21).
Your 1907/20. Concur with your proposals except that in para. 7 referred to below.
2. Neither fighter cover nor protection will prevent ships being bombed, and we cannot hope for Fighter Command escort except for an occasional very important ship.
3. It is therefore necessary to rely for air escorts on Coastal Command aircraft provided by 15 and 19 Groups. To obtain the maximum 'escort' value from the limited number of aircraft, it is essential that ships should be grouped, and therefore I consider that disadvantage stated in your para. 5 must be accepted.
4. Your para. 7. This has been discussed with 10 Group, and it was agreed that it would not render fighter cover or protection effective. The effectiveness of coastal command escorts would not be increased and there would be an addition to the flying time necessary. Furthermore, difficulties would also be caused by the large number of training aircraft flying in this area. (C. in C. Plymouth 1825/21, to C. in C. W.A.).

A/P Craft to be reduced.

In view of the necessity of economy in R.N.P.S. personnel and reduction of general maintenance work it is necessary to pay off some of the less efficient Auxiliary Patrol craft at present in commission. M/L Flotillas are now being formed and already strengthen considerably our coastal forces. C. in C. are requested to signal by 24/3, the names of any A/P vessels that have proved to be constantly in need of maintenance and repair during the winter. (A.C.N.S.H. 1339/21.).

/PATIA.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

PATIA. Your 1911/17. Assuming all equipment for W/T and R.D.F. type 79 and for catapult is delivered as required for PATIA confirm that a completion date mid-April at latest will be kept. Extreme priority should be interpreted as priority over all other one A work. (Controller 1758/21.).

MENDIP. Your 2148/20. Except the Captain, MENDIP has very inexperienced officers and 50% of her crew have never been to sea before. It is urged that she be allowed to complete her training. She should then sail about 25/3. (R.A.D. 1832/21.).
Your 1832. Concur with proposed arrangements. Request MENDIP may be sailed for Rosyth when ready to act as additional Escort for F.S. Convoy to Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 2226/21 to R.A.D.).

Convoy Routes in Cardigan Bay. Dividing Line of Plymouth and W.A. Commands. C. in C. W.A. 1907/20 para. 7. A meeting will be held at Admiralty at 1500/25 to discuss this. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to send representative. Fighter Command is also being asked to send a representative. It is also intended to raise the question of the dividing line between the Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands. (A.C.N.S.T.1922/21.).

Movements.

UNBEATEN. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0409/21.).

Plymouth. Suggest traffic in Sound be stopped owing to Fog. (Kings H. Master, Plymouth 0830/21, to C. in C. Plymouth.).

DIDO. Completes repairs midnight tonight. Intend to sail for Scapa at 1400/22 in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1617/14. Speed of advance 20 knots. E.T.A. 1200/23. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1149/21.).

/JAN VAN BRAKEL.....

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21. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

JAN VAN BRAKEL. (Dutch Minelayer). Left harbour to patrol off Tyne as protection for ships joining F.S.42. Returning to Tyne A.M. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1801/21.).

CALIFORNIA
THUNDERBOLT. R.A.3's 1642/16, A.M.2014/18 and THUNDERBOLT'S 1600/19. On leaving convoy CALIFORNIA and THUNDERBOLT are to proceed in company to Reykjavik to fuel.
2. If CALIFORNIA and THUNDERBOLT part company THUNDERBOLT is then well clear of convoy to report e.t.a. to F.O. i/c Iceland in order that bombing restrictions may be arranged.
3. F.O. i/c Iceland to sail THUNDERBOLT for Halifax after fuelling. (A.C.N.S.H.1814/21.

EXETER. Intend sailing EXETER for Scapa p.m./25 escorted by KASHMIR and KIPLING to Northern limit of Plymouth Command. As EXETER is not worked up request arrangements may be made for onward escort. (C. in C. Plymouth 1845/21.).

Operations.

Search for
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU. SHEFFIELD and REVENGE will be ready to proceed at 0100. ARETHUSA has only 26 per cent fuel remaining and is now oiling. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0023/21.).
My 1518/20. Amend as follows. UNION. 49° 48' N., 04° 20' W., proceeding, submerged by day to 48° 10' N., 06° 10' W. UNBEATEN. 49° 45' N., 04° 05' W., proceeding submerged by day for 47° 40' N., 06° 10' W. (F.O.S. 0039/21, to Adty.).
Information given to D.5. (C. in C. Plymout 0109/21, to Capt. (D)5.).
KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL are to raise steam by 0700 today. (D.C. 0350/21 to C. in C. Plymouth.).

/F.O. Force.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.3.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

F.O. Force H's 2110Z/20. Available 3 Destroyers of 5th D.F. are to proceed towards Gibraltar and will probably be required to screen Force H into Gibraltar. Capt. D.5 to report before sailing probable time of arrival in 040° N. (D.C.0652/21, to C. in C. Plymouth.).
Am detaching COSSACK,MAORI,ZULU for Reykjavik at 0900z and BOADICEA,ESCAPADE, ACTIVE at 2100 today. They require covering force victuals and rest. My position 0800Z 059° 23' N., 020° 41' W., 210° 19 knots. Capital ships may require fuel later at Hvalfjord.
(C. in C. H.F. 0809Z/21 to F.O.Iceland.).
Adty., 0652/21. Proceed forthwith to 040° N., 015°W., Report E.T.A. in this position.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0813/21, to D.5.).
If weather is thick take every opportunity of pressing on the surface. T.b.r.arranged until 2100/21. (F.O.S. 1138/21 to UNION, UNBRATEN.).
We have no further news of enemy B.Cs. Cancel my 2107/20. Act at your discretion. (D.O.D.H. 1330/21, to C. in C. H.F.).
My 2247/20. Unless you hear news of enemy battlecruisers return to Clyde.(C.N.S.1332/21 to C.S.18.).
Adty's 0652/21. Sail KASHMIR and KIPLING to Plymouth with despatch, and arrange for alternative destroyers to take their place on present escort duties. (A.C.N.S.H. 1410/21 to C. in C.W.A.).
Sailed 1350 KELLY KELVIN JACKAL.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1415/21.).
My 0813. KELLY, KELVIN, and JACKAL,E.T.A. 40°N., 015° W., at 0400/23 passing through 049° 35' N., 011° W. Speed of advance 22 knots. Estimate 50% fuel remaining at 0400/23. (C. in C. Plymouth 1501/21.).
Comply with Adty's 1410/21. (C. in C.W.A. 1706/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.).
Sailed KASHMIR and KIPLING in accordance with Adty's 1410. E.T.A. 1300/22.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1729/21.).
My 1501/21. If delayed by weather, report dark/22 number of hours late.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1807/21 to D.5.).
2 Battleships 1 Destroyer position 47° 17' N., 7° 13' W.(Fighter Command 2021/21, D.D.I.C. 2120/21, to Ares A,B,F.O.C.N.A, H.Q.C.C.
2 cruisers one destroyer, course 090, speed 20 knots. (Fighter Command Spare 2045/21.).
2021 from A/C Duty X. Proceed to intercep
(C. in C. Plymouth 2049/21 to D.5.).

/My 2049.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.3.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Search for SCHARNHORST AND GNEISENAU.

My 2049. Course and speed 090° 20 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 2107/21 to D.5.). Two cruisers one destroyer position 1747, course 090, speed 20 knots. (Fighter Command Spare Duty X. 2131/21.).

M.T.B. Dutch Coast Patrol.

My 1636/20. M.T.B's unable to operate owing to low visibility. (C. in C. Nore 0921/21.).

M.L. Anti E-Boat Patrol.

Arrivals M.L. 200, 197 and 195 at 1526. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1555/21.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol FUGLE as in my 0326/5/2 will be flown today by Sunderland one sortie. One Sunderland from Reykjavik ordered to fly special crossover patrol SNOW today through following positions. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/21.).

Special Air Searches.

The following special Air Searches have been ordered for today 21st.
(1) A cross over patrol between 46.30° N., and 48.30° North along meridian 12.50 W., by one Sunderland. Patrol commences at dawn.
(2) An A.S.V. sweep by four Whitleys flying 20 miles apart from 55° N., 10° W., out to 51.30° N., 21°.30 W. to reach extremity at 0800.
(3) Two Catalinas to patrol from 55° N.,10° W., to 55° N., 23.40° W., leave for patrol 0730 and reach extremity between noon and 12.30. (H.Q.C.C. 0100/21, D.O.D.(H) 0205/21. My 0002/21. Patrol FUGLE is as follows. (C. in C. Rosyth 0803/21.).
Additional Patrol being flown today Fair Trost Stab - Bert Stand. - S.A. Three. (C. in C. Rosyth 0817/21.).
Patrol FUGLE to be referred to in future as FUGLE 1 and FUGLE 2. Details. (H.Q.C.C. 0900/21.). See Summaries Folder.

/My 0205/21.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Your 57430 (M.O.8) 20/3. For M.O. 8.
Are patrols required tomorrow 22/3
Will not be despatched unless instructed
(G.O.C., Iceland 1612/21 to War Office)
Patrol aircraft returned. Nothing to
report. (F.O.Iceland, 1720/21)

Patrol tomorrow. Snowdrift crossover
by Sunderland from Iceland, as follows
from 1100/22 untill 2000/22.
Patrol R four crosses over by Sunderland
from Sullom Voe as follows from 1700/22
until 2045/22.
Patrol R five crosses over by Sunderland
from Sullom Voe as follows. from 1400/22
until 1800/22 Aircraft to land Reykjavik.
(C. in C., Rosyth 2120/21)
Following patrols to reach Norwegian Coast
at dawn tomorrow. TROST,STAB, BERT, STAND
HORNLI. (C. in C., Rosyth 2130/21)

Thames Estuary

Fighter A/C despatched to assistance of
6 ships ashore B7 Buoy (Nore W/T 1818/21)

Bomber Squadrons. Identification Marks of H.M. Ships

Three Bomber Squadrons may be sent to
attack enemy Battle Cruiser reported in
S.O.Force H 1830Z/20 if located.
In this event the special identification
marks to aircraft consisting of a
single Red Bar fore and aft is to be
displayed by H.M.Ships. (A.C.N.S. H
0221/21)

**Brest
Lorient
St. Nazaire**

A PL/G22/21/3.
C One Blenheim of 236 Squadron, Cloud
cover and weather permitting, is to
carry out visual R/C of Brest, Lorient,
and St. Nazaire at first light tomorrow.
(A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1920/21 to St. Eval)

Dutch Coast. M/V's and one Minesweeper attacked.

1. Day 20/3 four Blenheims carried out a
sea sweep and attacked the following
vessels off the Dutch Coast:- A Convoy
of 15 to 20 anchored ships of varying
sizes, a ship of about 3,000 tons marked
with a Swastika accompanied by 7 trawler
type vessels of about 2,000 tons each.
In the latter case near misses were
observed with the first and last bombs and
it is thought likely that two bombs scored
direct hits.

/A Dutch.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

My 0205/21 Para (2) Patrol was not flown due to fog. (A.C.N.S. H. 1155/21 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 57430 (M.O.8) of 20/3. First patrol over area 0900-1200 hours G.M.T. returned Nil reports. Visibility very poor. Second patrol cancelled owing to weather conditions that are deteriorating. (G.O.C. Iceland, 1330/21 to War Office)
My 0205/21. Search No 1 Aircraft leaves patrol to return to base about 1600. Search No3. Catalines leave patrol to return to base about 2100. (D.O.D. H. 1531/21)

Your A/C will warry out an East to West parallel track search from 1900 to 2030 today between following. (C. in C., Plymouth 1541/21)

Two SCHARNHORST Class Battle Cruisers were reported in 46° 50' N., 21° 25' W at 1830/20 and it is thought that they may attempt to make a French West Coast port. It is probable that they will make a long dark passage at their best speed of about 25 knots arriving at dawn but they may have made their best speed throughout the day with the object of making a short dark passage and arriving at dawn. Four aircraft to carry out the following searches leaving first positions given in each case at 1900/21.
A/C No 1 From 47° 52' N., 7° 55' W., to 47° 52' N., 12° 24' W.,
A/C No 2 From 47° 12' N., 7°5' W to 47° 12'N 11° 35' W.
A/C No 3 From 46° 44' N., 6° 30' W., to 46° 44' N., 11° W.
A/C No 4 From 46° 28' N., 6° 10' W., to 46° 28' N., 10° 40' W.
It is intended to locate enemy battle cruisers who are to be reported and shadowed. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1553/21 to St. Eval)

/Your 57430....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Dutch Coast. M/V's and one Minesweeper attacked-Contd.	A Dutch barge of about 100 tons and a minesweeper of 200 tons with sweeps out were also attacked with bombs and machine gun fire. (H.Q.B.C., 2332/21)

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth Air Raids.	Plymouth attacked by about 100 enemy aircraft between 2035 and 0045. Estimated more than 100 H.E. and many thousands of incendiary bombs dropped, mainly in centre of city. Over 80 fires started many still burning. Damage to Naval establishments as follows. Casualties. (C.in C. Plymouth, 0251/21). Air raid on night of 20/21 caused following damage. Details.
OCTOPUS and HOPPER W.36. damaged.	OCTOPUS "W.13". Damage by blast to machinery in engine room including general service pump casting, main feed and pipe, main inlet and bilge pipes etc. HOPPER W.36. Slight damage by incendiary bomb. (S.C.E. Devonport, 1718/21).
Convoy F.N.Even.	Even Numbered F.N. Convoy S. of Tyne being shadowed in 52° N., 1° 44'E. (WALLACE 1416/21).
Convoy W.N. Odd.	Fighter aircraft have been despatched to assistance of MIGHT. (Rosyth 1616/21).
?S.S. MILLISLE or LONDON II.	Enemy planes attacking ship two miles West of Helwick. (Plymouth W/T 1809/21). Sailed Rescue tug GOLIATH to assist. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2309/21).
Clyde Air Raid. damage.	My 2314/20. Repairs to pipe lines and clearing of basins are proceeding satisfactorily. River is now open without restriction No further damage to ships reported. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2305/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool.	Cancel my 1400/16. Port opened 0700. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0701/21).
S.N.69.	Arrival Port Z.A. R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, SCOTT, CASTLETON, ST. MARYS, LANCASTER, CHARLESTON. (TRELAWNEY, 0759/21).
Eastern Channel Clearance Sweep.	Mine clearance operations 20/3. M.S.L. in Q.Z.X. 315 clearance extends to line joining following positions. Three mines cut in position from D. buoy as follows. M/S trawlers in Q.Z.X. 313 cleared 4 and a half cables each side of line joining following positions. Nothing found. (V.A.Dover, 1213/21).
River Thames.	Cancel my 1032/20. Navigation on River Thames may be resumed as from 1300 today. (F.O.I.C. London, 1255/21).
Off Deptford. CHARLIGHT and 3 barges sunk.	At 1000/20/3/41. 75 H.P. diesel tug CHARLIGHT towing six empty iron barges passed over mine off Deptford Victualling Yard. CHARLIGHT and three barges sank. Casualties. Stopped all traffic from Tower Bridge to Barking Creek. Swept this area with skids LL sweep and S.A. gear with negative result. Traffic resumed 1300 today. (F.O.I.C. London, 1300/21).
B.S.52.	Intend TEVIOT BANK, KITTIWAKE, and LA MELPOMENE to sail from Spurn Point at 1600/22 and take departure from 20 F. Buoy at 0600/23 returning to 20.F. Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin 0745/23. (S.O. M/L Immingham, 1550/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Bristol Channel.

At 1000/21, Mine exploded by QUENAN off Tail Patch Buoy. Details.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 1710/21).
At 0936/21 a Red Mine exploded by S.A. Gear 52° Flatholm Light 3.85 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1801/21).
At 0842/21 two mines exploded as follows off St. Ann's Head.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1803/21).
One magnetic mine detonated 124° Great Castle Head Low Light 18.4 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1813/21).

HALO.

(British 2365 tons). At 1830 proceeding alongside Bekton No.1 pier opposite Magaret Ness, exploded mine and sank 200 feet off No.1 Pier. Four killed.
Sweeping has been resumed. Positions of explosions well outside channel.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1915/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Reasons for M/V's sailing from Gothenburg.

Your 1434/20.

(1) Thaw in Belts and probable opening of Kiel Canal are main reasons for ships departure.

Condition of Swedish Navy.

Contributory cause may be opening of Stettin also clear of (?ice) certain North Sea ports after relatively slack period of restricted traffic.

(2) Vessels between two and six thousand tons. Destination is only communicated to Masters after departure, but most probable majority of vessels bound for North Sea ports.

(3) Swedish Fleet's degree of readiness.
(N.A.Stockholm, 1209/21 to D.N.I.)

Norwegian Whalers. TANNENFELS.

Norwegian whale factory ships OLE WEGGER PELAGOS and SOL GLIMT and Tanker SANDFJORD are believed to have been captured in South Atlantic and may be returning to Western French port; also German TANNENFELS which left Kismayu on 30th January. Porbable route is between 030° and 040° West as far as 044° - 046° North thence to destination.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1317/21 to D.5.)

3. M/V's.

3 Merchant Vessels steering 180° in 58° 05'N., 06° 28'W. at 1410.
(F.O.S. 1509/21 to STURGEON).

Suspicious ship.

Large merchant vessel about 9000 tons flying Swedish flag sighted by air patrol at 1717Z in 61° 50'N., 22° 28'W. course 220° speed 10 knots. description. Nothing known of arrival of such a ship in Icelandic waters and behaviour suspicious.
(F.O.Iceland, 2131/21 to ? V.A.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Sailed SHEFFIELD, ARGUS, MAIDSTONE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, NAPIER, NIZAM, OTTAWA, GARLAND, HIGHLAND MONARCH, and LARGS BAY in accordance with my 1620.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1941/21).

W.S.7. W.S. seven is delayed. COLOMBIA is to escort ORONTES and REINA DEL PACIFICO to Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1751/21).
Admiralty's 1746/9.Sailing of W.S.7. is postponed at least 24 hours.
(D.O.D.(H) 1843/21).

E.C.Convoys. If you concur propose that routeing of E.C.Convoys should be undertaken by N.C.S.O. Thames.
(C.in C. Nore, 1058/21 to C.in C. Rosyth).

GLENSHIEL Convoy. For ships in GLENSHIEL convoy only. All orders regarding making a rendezvous are cancelled. Proceed independently at best speed to Halifax, Bermuda or Trinidad.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1511/21).

Navigation Lights. To be burnt at full brilliance in following areas. (D.T.D. 1808/21).

Routeing in IRish Sea. It is proposed to discuss routeing of merchant shipping in Irish Sea with a view to obtaining maximum security against air attack at a meeting at Admiralty at 1500/25. Representatives of Coastal and fighter commands may attend.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1923/21).

Procedure for capital ships, escorting slow convoys. (1st S.L. 2234/21 to RODNEY, KING GEORGE V).

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Unknown Vessel.	Ashore on Shipwash Bank 0714/21. (Scarborough W/T 0751/21). (N.Foreland, Recd., 0824/21), (0858/21).
Thames Estuary. 6 ships ashore, DICKY DASHWOOD.	Proceed forthwith to vicinity of B.7 buoy where 6 ships are ashore. (C.in C. Nore, 1439/21 to VERDUN). Your 1531. Steamships ARANMORE CORMORANT and SOLHAVN now proceeding Southend with instructions to anchor at dark. Steamship VESTLAND proceeding Harwich. Steamship DICKY and DASHWOOD still aground but likelihood of coming off. (VERDUN, 1740/21). Report situation. Tugs to remain during night. If they are unable to approach ships you should endeavour to tow and order auxiliary patrol ships to assist. (C.in C. Nore, 1841/21 to GUILLEMOT). My 1838. VERDUN, GUILLEMOT and (Corrupt group) standing by s.s. DASHWOOD. Request permission for H.M.S. VERDUN to proceed and anchor Barrow Deep at dark. (VERDUN, 1912/21). VERDUN anchor in swept channel and proceed to Sheerness at daylight to fuel. GUILLEMOT is to stand by stranded ship. (C.in C. Nore, 2003/21). CATTISTOCK is to afford cover to ships stranded in Longsand Head from daylight 22nd subsequently escorting tugs not required for towing to Sheerness. Atempts to refloat are being made at 0800. GUILLEMOT now stands by. Code word ALPIA. (C.in C. Nore, 2101/21 to CATTISTOCK). ST. CLEARS is to proceed forthwith with one armed trawler as escort to assistance of six ships ashore near B.Seven Buoy, Barrow Deep. (C.in C. Nore, 1601/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU probably attacked 2 ships 550 miles S.E. of Newfoundland (approx. 40° N., 43° W) on 15/3. One other vessel made QQQQ so possibly an armed merchant raider was co-operating.

On 16/3 Battle cruisers attacked three ships 300 miles E. by S. from Newfoundland. (Approx. 45° N., 45° W.) GNEISENAU and a fleet tanker were sighted by RODNEY, but escaped in the darkness.

BIANCA
SAN CASIMIRO. On 20/3 Battle Cruisers were sighted by an aircraft from Force H. 550 miles W.N.W. Cape Finnisterre 48° 50'N., 21° 25'W. but weather conditions prevented night shadowing or attack. Two prizes were intercepted, one having been captured S.E. of Newfoundland on 15/3.

On 20/3 D/F indicated a unit south of Cape Verdes. Identity unknown.

South Atlantic. Vague D/F indications of unit between Freetown and Pernambuco on 16/3. Possibly a supply ship as similar indications 19/2, 23/2, 6/3.

Indian Ocean. RAMB II, last located at Massawa 21/3. Reported by C.in C. N.E.I. between Celebes and New Guinea on 12/3 may be proceeding to Japan, not known if armed. Unidentified warship reported by C.in C. N.E.I. at Dilli, Timor, on 12/3.

Pacific Ocean. No information.

SCHEER. No information. If she is returning to Germany at 15 knots could have reached 56° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1813/21).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

18 C.S.	My 2250/20 Course altered to 250° to (corrupt group) your 2247/20 present best speed 16 knots. (F.O. 18 C.S., 0010/21 to Admty.)
FEARLESS	Return to Gibraltar with moderate despatch with destroyers in company unless otherwise ordered by S.O.Force H. Pass through 036° (?10') N., 008° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0012/21 to FEARLESS) See also South Atlantic, FEARLESS to detach destroyers to assist MALAYA.
Port Etienne DELPHINIUM	Reported that U-Boats make use of Port Etienne (21° N., 17° W) as a fuelling base. DELPHINIUM is to inspect the harbour as she passes without entering territorial waters. If a U-Boat is discovered inside territorial waters report is to be made and a patrol established to prevent her escape. If nothing is discovered DELPHINIUM is to continue her voyage to Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 0013/21 to F.O.C.N.A.
Orange Shipments	My 1953/8. It now transpires that a large proportion of the orange shipments will have to be lifted from Burriana and Castellon. Approval has been given for these ports to be used subject to the restriction of not more than two ships to be in the area at one time. (D.T.D. 0123/21 to F.O.C.N.A.
Enemy Unit	Bearings on 1204 Kc/s at 1841 G.M.T. indicate unidentified enemy unit in area 120 miles radius from 47° N., 35° W. (D.D.I.C., 0154/21)
Enemy Surface Craft	D/F bearings at 0058 B.S.T./21 indicates enemy surface craft at 1841/20 D/F indicates unidentified enemy unit in area of 120 miles radius from 047° N., 035° W., (F.O.C.N.A. 0410/21)

S.L. 67.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

S.L. 67. Unless shadowing the enemy A/S escort for S.L. 67 is to return to convoy. Ships unable to complete passage with convoy due to shortage of fuel are to part company when necessary and return to base. (1st S.L. 1038/21 to VETERAN HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HURRICANE, WOLSEY, MANSFIELD, CHELSEA, VERITY.)
My 1038/21. C. in C., W.A. is requested to give any further instructions he considers necessary. (D.O.D. (H) 1040/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

EXMOUTH United States red cross ship EXMOUTH sailed New York 16/3 March for Marseilles via Gibraltar E.T.A. Gibraltar 31/3. Description. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1155/21)

Your 0801/21 to F.O.C.N.A. only. It may not be practicable for you to fuel from MALAYA and speed should be adjusted accordingly. (F.O.C.N.A., 1300/21 to FORESIGHT)

KENYA
H.G. 56.
ARETHUSA My 1150/20 and 2145/20. KENYA is to join convoy H.G. 56 and escort it to the Clyde. Estimated p, c and s of H.G. 56 at noon/ 21 was 41° N., 20° 40' W., 352° 5½ knots routed through 50° N., 22° 45' W. ARETHUSA is to proceed to Scapa Flow unless otherwise ordered by C. in C., Home Fleet. (1st S.L. 1337/21 to ARETHUSA, C.S. 10)

FORESTER
FEARLESS Your 0932/21 and Admiralty 0652/21. As 3 destroyers of 5th D.F. are joining Force "H" and escorting them to Gibraltar, FORESTER and FEARLESS are to be sailed to join MALAYA. (1st S.L. 1347/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Gibraltar departure 2145 FEARLESS and FORESTER in accordance with Admty's 1347/21 and ordered to pass through 031° 40' N 015° 25' W., steering 242° at 0800Z-1/23 to R.V. with MALAYA. (F.O.C.N.A., 2230/21)
(Cancelled see 0810/22)

S.L. 67.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

S.L. 67

Admty. 2142/20 and 1038/21. Search from 051° 28' N., 021° 35' W., to 052° 30' N 021° 30' W., negative in visibility one to 2 miles between 0800 and 1200. Assuming S.L. 67 8 hours late expect to join 1630. VERITY (? HAVELOCK) in company. (VETERAN, 1411/21 to Admty. A.C.W.A.)

Situation

Situation in your vicinity at 1200 G.M.T./21
2. Convoy S.L. 68 21° N., 25° W., to be dispersed before dark today, ships proceeding independently to Trinidad, Bermuda of Halifax.
3. MALAYA damaged by one torpedo hit leaves convoy after dispersal and steers 015° at 14 knots to R/V with destroyers from Gibraltar.
4. MAURITIUS 14° N., 19° W., steering towards convoy. SS NARKUNDA may be in company.
5. BULOLO as given in 1141/20 from C. in C., S.A.
6. CANTON leaves convoy after dispersal and proceeds towards Bermuda.
(D.O.D. (F) 1833/21 to Force X)

Orders to (D) 5.

C. in C. Plymouth's 1501/21 and re Admty 0652/21. Pass through 038° 40' N., 015° 40' W., at 0800 zone (minus) one/23 steering 336° to R.V. with S.O.Force "H" in RENOWN and ARK ROYAL during daylight /23 and escort them to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1856/21 to Capt. (D) 5)

KENYA
H.G. 56.

Your 1337. My estimated p,c and s 2000Z/21 050° 20' N., 020° 13' W., 187° 17. 60% fuel remaining. Anticipate remaining with HG 56 until p.m/28 (F.O.10 C.S. 1924/21 to Admty)

Oran
DUNKERQUE

Air photographic recon. of Oran. 21/3. One DUNKERQUE class position unchanged. Three small supply ships alongside. Turrets in position but guns not visible. No submarines visible. (4) Commercial Harbour. Very little shipping. Possibly four S/M's present. (F.O.C.N.A., 2304/21 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MALAYA
(Torpedoed 20/3)

My 2331Z/20. One torpedo abreast A boiler room. Damage apparently not serious. Boiler room not flooded yet. remaining with convoy. Cannot ascertain max. speed until daylight. Have recalled MARGUERITE. (MALAYA 0055Z/21 to C. in C. S.A.)
Course 125° (MALAYA, 0100Z/21 to MARGUERITE)
WISHART and VIDETTE will arrive Bathurst a.m./22, will fuel there, then proceed to assist. Your position received as 020° 02' N., 025° 55' W., course 125° 7 knots. Destroyers will not be able to escort to Gibraltar unless you fuel them but could escort to Freetown if you proceed there, fuelling Bathurst if necessary. Corvettes can also fuel Bathurst and then rejoin you. (C. in C., S.A., 0107N/21 to MALAYA)
Am returning to you. Consider have sufficient fuel remaining to escort you. MARGUERITE returning at full speed. My speed of advance 11 knots. (CROCUS, 0148Z/21 to MALAYA)
Send four Destroyers to screen MALAYA at earliest moment that their endurance will permit. (1st S.L. 0235/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My p, c and s at 0245Z, 019° 57' N., 025° 35' W., 085° 7 knots. (MALAYA 0236Z/21 to CROCUS, MARQUERITE)
Detach 2 F class destroyers to assistance of MALAYA torpedoed at 2331Z/20 in position 020° 02' N., 025° 55' W. Report names of ships detached. (F.O.C.N.A., 0254/21 to FEARLESS)
Proceed assistance of MALAYAtorpedoed in position 020° 02' N., 025° 55' W., at 2331Z/20. (F.O.C.N.A., 0300/21 to DELPHINIUM)
Admty's 0235/21 and C. in C., S.A. 0107N/21
Intend to turn convoy North at daylight. Fuel both corvettes and make towards destroyers from Gibraltar. Will then disperse convoy with orders to rendezvous later with MAURITIUS. Conditions may compel me to return to Freetown. (MALAYA, 0426Z/21 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Your 0235/21.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-

MALAYA
(Torpedoed 20/3)
-Contd.

Your 0235/21 crossed my 0251/21 (?0254/21) FEARLESS and WRESTLER are returning to Gibraltar to fuel. FORESTER is now available but do not intend sailing her or FEARLESS unless ordered in view of C. in C., S.A's 0107/21. FORESIGHT and FORTUNE p,c and s at 0801 A/21 035° 42' N., 012° W., 205° ?22 knots, fuel remaining 306 tons each. (F.O.C.N.A., 0932/21 to Admty.)
Your 0932/21. Destroyers sent to Bathurst primarily in view of possibility of MALAYA proceeding to Freetown. They could not go far on way to Gibraltar without MALAYA fuelling them and are required if possible for REPULSE and W.S. 7. Have no others. (C. in C., S.A., 1029N/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)
p,c and s at 0245Z, 019° 57' N., 025° 35' W 085° 7 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 0954/21 to DELPHINIUM, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE)

Enemy Unit

Ref. Admty message A.F. Position 20° 02' N., 25° 55' W., at 2331/20 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0145/21 to All B.M.S. in Area 1 and 6a) My 2318/20. Bearing on 5595 Kc/s at 0058 B.S.T. Scarborough 245/3 probably same unit. (D.D.I.C., 0156/21)

MAURITIUS

To join S.L. 68 at earliest moment that fuel endurance will permit. (1st S.L. 0217/21 to MAURITIUS)

German
LECH

Commenced loading large shipment of hides Estimated discharge of outward cargo will finish about end of month. (N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro 0944/21)

S.L. 69

Your 1200/21. Convoy S.L. 69 proposed time of sailing 1200N/21. (C. in C., S.A., 1051N/21 to Admty.)
My 1051/21. Unless sailed today Convoy cannot sail until 1300/22. Do not at present appear to be any indication of U-Boats in Cape Verde-Freetown Area except that of those in touch with S.L. 68. (C. in C., S.A., 1141/21 to Admty.)

/My 1807/20....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

S.L. 69-Contd. — My 1807/20. Report proposed time of sailing of S.L. 69. Convoy is not to sail until this is confirmed by Admty. (A.C.N.S.,(T) 1200/21 to C. in C., S.A.)

LOUIS L.D. — Reported arrived Dakar 14/3 with African troops. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1201N/21)

French Troops Repatriation. — (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 1520b/21 to Embassy Lisbon)

SS HERMES ARUBA (Dutch) — Overdue. Departure 26/2 due Freetown 17/3. (S.O(I) Freetown, 1610/21)

MARATHON — Have you any news of Greek MARATHON sailed Ponta Delgada 5/3. (D.T.D., 1653/21 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)

Reporting — Request you will arrange arrivals and departures of shipping and H.M.Ships from St. Helena to be reported to Admty. (D.O.D. (F) 1801/21 to C. in C., S.A.)

GUNNY HARPALION — Overdue shipping Norwegian GUNNY due Pernambuco 14/3 from Durban and British Ship HARPALIOC (?HARPALION) due Buenos Aires 17/3 from U.K. have not arrived. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2138/21 to Admty.)

WISHART VIDETTE — Return to Freetown forthwith. (1st S.L. 2200/21)

BIRMINGHAM CHRISTIAN HUYGENS — Your 2141N/19 received 1732/21. BIRMINGHAM has defects. Cannot be completed before a.m. 24 and propse to sail CHRISTIAN HUYGENS and BIRMINGHAM respectively in accordance with your 2141/19 but 48 hours late. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2215B/21 to C. in C., S.A.)
Approved (C. in C., S.A., 1202/22)

/MAURITIUS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

MAURITIUS

Pending further instructions MAURITIUS is rejoining NARKUNDA (C. in C., S.A., 2327N/21)
MAURITIUS is to proceed to Bathurst to fuel and be ready to take over escort of S.L. 69. NARKUNDA should accompany her. (V.C.N.S., 2331/21 to C. in C., S.A.)

Mediterranean

Operations of own S/M's

I much regret it was found necessary to release on broadcast the details of submarine activity given in my 0945/17 despite 3 requests on this subject. This can but make more difficult the task of Malta submarines who already have to operate under intensive air observation and it is also likely to make their rest periods in Malta more disturbed than ever. (C. in C., Med. 0436/21)

Air Operations

19/3. 6 unidentified aircraft bombed landing ground Benghasi before dawn. No damage or casualties.
Night 19/20 March 3 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked shipping Durazzo bad weather prevented assessment results but 2 explosions observed. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E. 1151/21)

SS MAHANADA

Reported sunk. (R.A.Alexandria 1236/21)

Security of Piraeus and Volo

N.A.Athens 1540/21 See Mediterranean Volume.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1600 hours. Glenn Martin patrolled between Cape Bon and Sicily for shipping information for submarines. Photo R/C. Porto Empedocle.

DEFENDER Damaged

Ju. 88 bombed DEFENDER off Malta 3 near misses 1 slight casualty. Hurricanes up and escorted DEFENDER into port no engagements enemy withdrew after one run. (Malta 1620/21)
Further to my I 192, 21/3, DEFENDER sustained slight splinter damage. 6 wounded, 2 seriously. (H.Q.,R.A.F., Med 0140/23)

/MAX BERENDT...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

MAX BERENDT German	Crew arrived, will sail 23/3 or 24/3 ostensibly for Valencia as bottom requires cleaning. (Aliciente, 1721/21)
Suez Canal	Situation 1900/21. Congestion cleared at Port Said and Suez. Canal traffic proceeding normally. (S.B.N.O., Suez, 1931/21)
UTMOST URSULA	One R/C reports three S/Ms entering Tripoli; information received that enemy submarines would not operate within 20 miles of convoy routes during passage of convoys. This indicates intended S/M activity. If you consider your position compromised by air R/C or attack, change area immediately to UTMOST area P 034° 00' 011° 30' 360° 35 40 URSULA area L two. Return to original area if subsequently compromised. Maintain W/T silence throughout patrol. (Comdr. (S) 1203/21 to UTMOST, URSULA)
SAVONA BELLONA	Arrival German steamer SAVONA Departure German steamer BELLONA for Marseilles (Valencia, T.H.I. 2050/21)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Your 2237/20. Request time of R/V be amended to 0500Z/23.
(ILLUSTRIOUS 0007/21 to S.B.N.O. Suez).
Your 0007/21 approved.
(S.B.N.O. Suez, 0356/21 to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

Dhows. Mogadiscio. 22 Dhows ranging from 14 to 99 tons are at Mogadiscio. All Italian owned and coming from Alula and Dante Areas. (Particulars).
(C.in C. E.I. 07122/21).

EAGLE'S aircraft. My 1208/20. ? R.A.F. can accommodate, ration, refuel and rearm with bombs all EAGLE's aircraft at Port Sudan. Request 12 be flown to Port Sudan as soon as possible.
(C.in C. E.I. 1122/21 to C.in C. Med.)

S.S. SPEYBANK. Your 0514/11 advise firm SPEYBANK considerably overdue presumed lost.
(D.T.D. 1412/21 to C.in C. E.I.)

S.S. BHUTAN. Asking whereabouts; with important military stores for Malaya.
(D.O.D.(F) 1756/21).

Assab bombed. Bombing 12 Blenheim I's 6,000 lbs Assab. 6,000 lbs. Diredawa.
(G.H.Q. Aden, 1830/21).

America and West Indies.

D/F bearings for U.S.A. My 2227/19. Request approval to issue U.S. Authorities with D/F bearing code and recoding tables.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1456/21 to Admty).

Convoy S.L. 68. Following has been broadcast to ships in S.L. 68 which has been ordered to disperse and R/V later. Begins: All orders regardin, making a R/V are cancelled. Proceed independelty at best speed to Halifax Bermuda or Trinidad. Ends.
(1st S.L. 1507/21 to C.in C. A.W.I. S.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CANTON. My 1507/21. Use every endeavour to pass Admiralty instructions visually to ships of convoy S.L.68.

2. Leave area at noon/22, and proceed to Bermuda spending as much time searching for enemy supply ships in area 24° N., to 28° N., 38° W. to 42° W. as fuel will allow.
(1st S.L. 1533/21 to CANTON).

MOST SECRET.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CLAN OGILVY.	British 5802 tons. In convoy S.L.68. Following has been read. SSSS 20.04 N., 25.45 W. CLAN OGILVY torpedoed. (Gibraltar W/T 0052/21) (D.O.R. 22/3).
FRANCHE COMTE. (torpedoed 16/3).	Proceed forthwith to assistance of FRANCHE COMTE off Sanda Island at 0332 proceeding to Greenock with BLUEBELL standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0440/21 to SALVANIA TENACITY.
FERM VENETIA (torpedoed 16/3).	Tug will tow FERM stern first when possible (PETUNIA, 1001/21). BLUEBELL arrived with 67 survivors from VENETIA and FERM. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1302/21). ZWARTE ZEE proceeding towards Butt of Lewis FERM in 061° 30' 009° 30'. (PRUDENT 1705/21). FERM has sunk. Return to base in company through Minches. PETUNIA and WELLARD have been ordered to escort you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2150/21 to ZWARTE ZEE, PRUDENT).

Submarines Reported.

0854.	D/F indications at 0531 B.S.T. of U/B to Eastward, of Shetlands. (D.D.I.C. 0854/21).
1156 G.M.T.	U/Boat sighted 1156 G.M.T. in 047° N., 010° W. steering westward. (F.O.(S) 1406/21 to UNBEATEN, TIGRIS, UNION). (C.in C. Plymouth 1641/21 to forces concerned).
S.L.67. Shadowed.	It is probable that S.L.67 is being shadowed by U/Boat. (C.in C. W.A. 1455/21 to DOUGLAS etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.3.1941.
Friday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1750
S.L.67 or
KENYA
reported.

D/F at 1750/21 indicates that convoy S.L. 67 or KENYA was reported by U/Boat. (D.D.I.C. 1832/21).

1747 G.M.T.
MALAYA,
reported.

D/F indic tions at 1747/21 G.M.T. suggest that MALAYA may have been reported by a U/Boat. (D.D.I.C. 2025/21).

1535
G.M.T.

Admty. message A.F. 51° 42'N., 18° 55'W. at 1535/21 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2343/21).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1413/21).

Submarines
Attacked.

By LA PAMPA
23/2.

Following from Baltimore. Master British ship LA PAMPA in drydock reportes marks on bottom indicates attempt to ram U/Boat when convoys (Loch Ewe 20/2) was attacked 23/2 ships 59.26N., 21.08 W. may have been successful. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1044/21).

By
CAMELIA.

Am attacking enemy submarine 52° 30'N., 18° W. (CAMELLIA, 2345/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for enemy battle cruisers.

Aircraft R/C of the Biscay Ports today has been inconclusive owing to low visibility, and St. Nazaire was the only port covered; at 1951 this evening there was no further news of the German Battle Cruisers. UNION, UNDAUNTED, and TIGRIS are to be disposed to cover the Ports where they now are, and are to be joined by CACHALOT on completion of her minelaying operation the orders for which have been amended; and a force of about 13 submarines is to occupy an arc of some 240 miles radius from St. Nazaire between 44° and 48° North and is to be reinforced by further submarines of the 6th, 7th and 9th Flotillas as these arrive.

NELSON, HOOD, QUEEN ELIZABETH are returning to Scapa, and C.S.18 in EDINBURGH arrived in the Clyde at 0731 this morning.

8

British Air Activity.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

R/C of Brest and Lorient was ordered during moonlight this morning and of these ports and St. Nazaire at first light.

Bad weather caused a reduction in the number of escorts for convoys today.

Bomber Command aircraft made a heavy attack on Lorient last night.

Coastal Command aircraft today attacked and set on fire a ship off Egersund, probably causing total loss.

MOST SECRET.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Renewed attack on Plymouth.

Plymouth was again heavily attacked, from 2039 last night until 0015 this morning, many thousand Incendiary Bombs and more than 100 H.E. Bombs being dropped and the centre of the city is reported as largely destroyed. Slight damage was caused in the Dockyard and some damage was done to the Naval Buildings, but Naval casualties so far reported are only 3 killed and 11 injured.

M/S trawler ASAMA was sunk in Plymouth sound by a direct hit during the air-raid last night; the M/S Trawler COMPUTATOR was damaged when 3 minesweepers were attacked today off Portland; and the L.L.Drifter JEANNIE LEASK was badly damaged at Brightlingsea. Two bombs were droppe on Convoy F.N.39 at 1811 today off Lowestoft, but no damage was done, and H.M. Trawler DERBY COUNTY was unsuccessfully bombed this evening off the Smalls.

One or two bombs were dropped harmlessl on the Shetlands tonight.

Mining.

Four Hampdens last night laid mines at the mouth of the Gironde.

A few enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the South West Coasts last night.

/Mines were

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.(Contd.)

Mines were seen to drop off Harwich at 1700 and 2 explosions were heard. The Port was closed at 1731. Oban was opened at 1740.

Shipping and Convoys.

NELSON is to escort W.S.7 to Freetown to free Force H for operation against German battle cruisers. EDINBURGH will also form part of the ocean escorts.

North Atlantic.

French Trawler PIERRE ROCHELLE was intercepted this morning 40 miles East of the Canary Islands and was sent into Gibraltar under armed guard.

Watch for enemy battle cruisers.

Force H is to fuel at Gibraltar as soon as possible and patrol to westward of the Bay of Biscay to intercept SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU should they leave. FEARLESS, FORESTER, VELOX and WRESTLER are to escort Force H.

/S.O.Force H.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Operations of enemy battle cruisers.

S.O. Force H. considers that BIANCA and other captured ships may have been used as a searching force during passage of the enemy battle cruisers to occupied France, to locate convoys. The ships fell into German hands, intact and the Germans used ships' wireless constantly to communicate. He suggests that masters should be instructed to scuttle when enemy character of ship stopping them is definitely established or if this is not desirable they should be prepared to put their wireless sets out of action. S.O.Force H considers that if concealed arms had been available on board the crews might have recaptured the BIANCA and SAN CASMIRO.

South Atlantic.

Force X (S/M SEVERN) reported at 1152/22 that she was shadowing an enemy merchant raider in position 12.55 N., 27.10 W., about 840 miles W.N.W. of Freetown. MAURITIUS, whose noon position was 13.30 N., 23.20 W., was ordered to investigate. At 1845Z/22, the enemy was reported to have altered course to W., SEVERN had lost contact and abandoned the Chase owing to insufficient fuel. It is possible that the ship sighted by SEVERN is British S.S. SACRAMENTO VALLEY MAURITIUS is to join S.L.69. REPULSE, not now required for this convoy, will escort FURIOUS to Gibraltar.

FURIOUS reported operation "Summer" completed at 0945 today, when all Hurricanes had been flown ashore at Takoradi. She requires 7 days in harbour for defects on arriving Freetown on 25/3.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Enemy aircraft bombed the Grand Harbour today, causing damage to buildings in the dockyard. A few bombs were dropped on Malta this evening but no Naval damage is reported.

Tanker MARIE MAERSK arrived at Suda Bay today in charge of a navigating party from WATERHEN, ship had been bombed[x] and was on fire; the fire was later extinguished but ship is damaged and has lost at least 1000 tons of oil.

[x] in Kithera Channel 21/3, in convoy, by 6 JU88's.

East Indies.

LEANDER, which arrived at Mauritius early this morning, is to establish a patrol off Tamatave, Madagascar, from a.m. /24 to try and intercept the French VILLE DE VERDUN, which passed Sunda Strait on 13/3 for Madagascar and carries important persons of Free French sympathies.

A/C from HERMES and ENTERPRISE searched the southern atolls of the Maldive Islands today.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

MALAYA (torpedoed on 20/3) is proceeding to Trinidad, and may require temporary repairs there before proceeding to a U.S. port.

S.S. LORETO, on arrival at Bermuda today reported distress messages, not previously received at Bermuda, from 3 ships gunned on 16/3, all of which were jammed. C.in C. A.W.I. suggests that in such circumstances ships and coast stations should at once shift frequency and repeat the distress signal.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

8th S/M Flotilla. Proposed Patrol in Bay of Biscay.

In view of the present disposition of enemy heavy ships it is proposed that the submarines of the 8th Flotilla at Gibraltar should cease Convoy Escort Duties and instead be employed to reinforce the submarine patrols in the Bay of Biscay. In view of the number of submarines about to be employed in this area propose F.O.(S) should assume operational control of the 8th Submarine Flotilla. (F.O.S. 1109/22).
Your 1109/22. Reasons you put forward are fully appreciated but in view of the vulnerability of these convoys submarines must continue escort duties. (V.C.N.S. 1619/22 to F.O.S.).

R.N.A. Station at Campbeltown.

R.N. Air Station Campbeltown is to commission as an independent command under the administration of R.A.N.A.S. on 1/4, 1941. (R.A.N.A.S. 1132/22).

PATIA.

Your 1758/21. Assuming all equipment for W/T and R.D.F. Type 79 and for Catapult is delivered by end of March PATIA can be completed by mid April. Work is proceeding to finish earliest possible date which will be reported more precisely within a week. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1303/22).

Bay of Biscay Proposed S/M dispositions.

A. The following are my proposals for submarine dispositions in the Bay of Biscay.
B. Three Submarines, and CACHALOT after her lay, to be disposed now to cover near approach to the Biscay Port where the enemy is located.
(C) By about 28th March this force to be replaced by about 13 submarines disposed on an arc of approximately 240 miles radius from St. Nazaire between latitudes 44° N. and 48° N. The Southern position will be occupied first.
(D) As 8th Flotilla Submarines arrive in the area they will reinforce the southern end of this line.
(E) As further submarines of 7th, 9th, and 6th Flotillas arrive they can be used to reinforce this line. (F.O.S. 1306/22).
Your 1306/22 & A.M. 1619/22.
Approved. (V.C.N.S. 1820/22 to F.O.S.).

Flag of C.in C. H.F. to QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Intend to shift my Flag to QUEEN ELIZABETH p.m. tomorrow. Request following arrangements be made for accommodation for about 10 days. (C.in C. H.F., 1503/22 and 1507/22).

/ Flag of C.in C. H.F. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Flag of C.in C. H.F. to QUEEN ELIZABETH. (contd.)	Flag of C.in C. H.F. is being transferred from NELSON to QUEEN ELIZABETH p.m./23 but Secretariat, Administration Staff, and Cypher Staff will be accommodated on shore at Hatston. From 1200/23 request that only signals for C.in C. H.F. of priority immediate or above may be passed to C.in C. H.F. by W/T on station waves or via Scapa W/T. All other signals should be passed as follows. (C.in C. H.F. 1959/22).
Identification of A/C by Ships.	My 1226/18 applies also to unescorted ships. (C.in C. W.A. 1710/22).
Convoy Routes in Cardigan Bay.	Your 1923/21. Representatives from this Headquarters Nos. 9 and 10 Groups and N.C.A.S. will attend Conference. (H.Q.F.C. 1845/22 to Adty.).

Movements.

KELLY KELVIN JACKAL	KELLY, KELVIN, and JACKAL are now not required to proceed to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. H. 0109/22).
HOOD. QUEEN ELIZABETH. NIGERIA.	Admiralty 0043/22. Am proceeding in HOOD with INGLEFIELD, ELECTRA, ESKIMO to refuel in Clyde. E.T.A. about 2300Z/22. QUEEN ELIZABETH with ECHO and ECLIPSE detached to Scapa. (F.O. 1st B.C.S. 0425Z/22). Cancel my 0425Z. Am proceeding to Scapa. My position course and speed (are) at 0730Z 056° 15' N. 013° 53' W., 055°, 18 knots. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0731Z/22). E.T.A. Scapa in HOOD with QUEEN ELIZABETH and 4 destroyers 0600/23. Gate 0650. ECLIPSE detached to Londonderry for fuel. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1445/22.). Scapa arrival NIGERIA. (A.C.O.S. 1938/22).
EDINBURGH.	Arrived C.S.18 in EDINBURGH. Also D.6. in SOMALI with BEDOUIN, MATABELE and MASHONA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0731/22).

/ PRINCE OF WALES. ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

PRINCE OF WALES. Expect to pass Dunnet Head westward about 0600/25. Request firing area for 14 inch full calibre gun trials. Intend to defer preliminary full power steam trials if suitable escort is not available. Request if possible I may be informed of this by 1600 Monday, 24th.
(PRINCE OF WALES 0900/22).
Expect arrive in NELSON with three destroyers at 2359/22. Request Hoxa Gate 0045/23.
(C.in C. H.F. 1147/22 to A.C.O.S.).

KASHMIR.
KIPLING. Arrived 1230/22. (C.in C. Plymouth 1345/22).

DIDO 1436 sailed DIDO in accordance with my 1149/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/22).

16th D.F. C.in C. Nore's 1109/22. Intend to sail 1700, speed 25 knots. Request fighter protection.
(D.16 1455/22).

Operations.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

My 2101. Proceed to patrol southward of Belle Isle on assumption enemy is making for St. Nazaire (F.O.S. 0019/22 to TIGRIS).

HOOD.
NIGERIA. My 0040 to S.O. Force H.
If HOOD has sufficient fuel she should proceed now to patrol to the westward of the Bay of Biscay and remain until arrival of Force H. If any cruisers are available they should join HOOD.
(1st S.L. 0043/22 to C.in C. H.F.).
Admiralty's 0043/22. Consider HOOD should complete with fuel. She has had no opportunity to work up after long refit and many changes in personnel. Consider 48 hours most desirable.
NIGERIA is returning with NELSON to Scapa to refuel. (C.in C. H.F. 0431/22).

/ 5th D.F. ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)
Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. (Contd.)

5th D.F.

Be outside 20 miles from French Coast at daylight and then return Plymouth if not in contact with enemy heavy ships.
Weather unlikely to be suitable for fighter escort. (C.in C. Plymouth 0213/22 to Capt. D.5.).
Patrolling off Brest 0150 to 0600. Nothing sighted at Ushant and Armen lights were on.
H.T.A. Plymouth 1245. (Capt. D.5 0803/22).
KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL, arrived 1150/22.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1337/22).

Bay of Biscay

Establishment of S/m Patrol.

OBERON)
TUNA)
TORBAY)
TAKU)
H.31)
H.32)
H.33)
H.34)
H.44)
H.50)
L.26)
L.27)
0.9)
0.10)
0.24)

Movements. (S.7. 0055/22, 0101/22, 0359/22, 0433/22, 1104/22, 1633/22, 1739/22 2032/22)
(F.O.S. 0136/22, 1131/22)
(WESTERN ISLES 0700/22, 1005/22)
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1404/22)
(S.3 1411/22)
(C.in C. Nore 1526/22)
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1748/22)
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2012/22)

URGE
SOKOL
SUNFISH
SEALION
UNDAUNTED
for Portsmouth.

A. Cancel all previous orders for patrols and A/S exercises.
B. URGE, SOKOL, SUNFISH SEALION, UNDAUNTED are to be sailed as soon as possible for Portsmouth Eastabout.
C. C.in C. Rosyth, C.in C. Nore and V.A.Dover are requested to arrange escorts or passage with convoys as required.
Suggest submarines should proceed unescorted and submerged by day after passing Dungeness.
(F.O.S. 1142/22 and 1452/22).
F.O.S. 1142/22. LEDA is to be sailed from Aberdeen A.M./23 to rendezvous with S/M's UNDAUNTED and SOKOL at 1100/23 in 090° May Island 4½ miles. S.9 to sail UNDAUNTED and SOKOL to comply. Route.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1825/22).

/ UNION
UNDAUNTED
TIGRIS
CACHALOT ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.3.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

UNION
UNDAUNTED
TIGRIS
CACHALOT

Following is my intention.
(A) UNION, UNDAUNTED, TIGRIS will be disposed to cover Bay of Biscay ports in which enemy forces are located. CACHALOT will join this force on completion of her lay for which amended orders follow.
(B) The remaining S/Ms will be disposed on the arc of circle about 240 miles radius from the Loire between 044° N. and 048°N.
(C) It is intended to maintain maximum concentration possible for short periods.
(F.O.S. 1758/22).
Following patrol positions number 50 to 69 inclusive are established.
(F.O.S. 2014/22).

Operation EUROPEAN.

My 1758. Operation "EUROPEAN" is to be carried out at already ordered and you are to vacate any patrol position as necessary.
(F.O.S. 1759/22 to TIGRIS).

East Coast Patrol.

M.T.B. Patrol parallel to Channel 8 miles eastward number 5 buoy from dark till daylight tonight 22nd/23rd. (C.in C. Nore 1836/22).

Anti E-Boat Patrol.

Departure M.T.B's 22, 31, 34 and 43 at 1915.
H.M.S. SUTTON at 1929.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1945/22).

Western Channel Patrol.

Sailed 1930 H.M.S. KASHMIR H.M.S. KIPLING for Patrol. (C.in C. Plymouth 2137/22).

British Air Activity.

R/C of Brest Lorient St. Nazaire.

(1) Two Bs. and one Dr. were reported in position 47 degs. 17 North 07 deg. 13 West at 2021/21 Course 090 speed 20 knots.
(2) One A/C of 22 Squadron is to recco. Brest during moonlight this morning.
(3) One A/C of 22 Squadron is to recco. the Lorient - St.Nazaire area, arriving Lorient at 0400/22.
(4) Three A/C of 59 squadron are to be available to carry out a visual recco. of these areas at dawn/22 if required.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0018/22).

/ M.V's and E-Boats bombed.

MOST SECRET.

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22.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

M/V's and E-Boats bombed.

Day 21st March one Blenheim attacked a 6,000 ton Merchant vessel escorted by two trawlers and an E boat. The E boat was also attacked and both ships were machine gunned. The actual results were not observed, but bombs fell very close to both ships.
Another Blenheim attacked with bombs and machine gunned a tanker of 5,000 tons escorted by four destroyers. A direct hit was scored on the stern of the tanker and the rear gunner silenced the gun of an escorting vessel by machine gun fire.
One other Blenheim attacked convoy of 10 to 15 ships near Ameland and one burst was observed very close to a 3,000 ton ship.
One Blenheim attacked two E boats 10 miles North of Borkum and a burst was seen between the two boats which were then machine gunned.
Two Blenheims attacked destroyers South West of Heligoland, near misses. Besides above, three Blenheims successfully completed sweep. (H.Q.B.C. 0115/22).

Patrols.

Your 0647/22 and my 2129/21. Patrol R 4 cancelled. This Sunderland will escort you from about 1330. (C.in C. Rosyth 1024/22, to C.in C. N.F.).
My O.863 to the War Office (? only) dated 21st March.
No reply received yet. In view of information received by 30 Wing, patrols by 98 Squadron Battle Aircraft are being carried out to-day over area detailed War Office 56997 (M.O.8) 18/3. Request very early reply as to whether patrols are required to-morrow.
(C.O.C. Iceland 1516/22 to War Office).
Patrol UMST is now in operation until 1845.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1702/22).
Your O.863 21/3.
No patrols required 23/3. In future orders for patrols will be sent by Coastal Command.
C.4. (Tels). (War Office 1900/22 to C.O.C. Iceland).
Following patrols ordered for tomorrow.
TROST STAB BERT to reach Norwegian Coast at dawn. (C.in C. Rosyth 1944/22).

Flares and Kites.

Snowball flares successfully operated by WANDERER without difficulty. PERIWINKLE without fitted mast has not yet succeeded in flying kite satisfactorily. Request decision may now be given re flying these kites at night when air escort may be present.
(WANDERER 1832/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.3.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

LONDON II (British, 1260 tons) — Bombed at 1900/21 in 51° 23' 30" N. 4° 30' W. TORRENT & salvage tug GOLIATH proceeding to stand by. On fire, abandoned. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 0352/22). Following received from TORRENT have searched vicinity of wreck without finding anything but boats and wreckage. Tug, also searching, so far has found nothing. Consider ship must be judged sunk. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 0758/22).

Plymouth Air Raid. — Plymouth attacked by more than 100 enemy aircraft between 2039 and 0015. Estimated more than 100 H.E. and many thousands of incendiaries mainly in centre of City and Milbay area. City centre including Municipal Buildings largely destroyed. Guildhall and many fires still burning. Damage to Naval Establishments as follows.
Casualties, so far reported
Marines:- 1 killed, 8 injured.
Naval :- 2 killed. 3 injured.
Civil casualties estimated very roughly 450 of which 100 killed.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0405/22).

WAZIRISTAN (Bombed 2/2) — My 0915/21. Sailing WAZIRISTAN in tow BANDIT escorted SPOSA 1030/22. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 0905/22).

Convoys CHITTY and CUSTOM. — Fighter protection has been sent to CHITTY (S.L. Convoy) and CUSTOM. (Lyness W/T 0951/22).

ASAMA — (M/S Trawler) sunk at 2335/21 in Plymouth Sound. Direct hit abaft funnel by bomb. 17 known survivors. (C.in C. Plymouth 1132/22).

Convoy F.N. Odd. — One enemy Aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 52° 18' N. 1° 59' E. course 018° speed 7 knots. (EGLINTON 1615/22).

COMPUTATOR (M/S Trawler) — At 1230 today 3-0 Sweepers were attacked by one H.E.111K in position 292 Portland Bill 7 miles. Two bombs dropped and ships machine gunned. COMPUTATOR received slight damage from machine gun fire and two minor casualties. Ships state they hit machine in tail which made off as two Spitfires arrived. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1701/22).

/ JEANNIE LEASK. ...
(LL. Drifter)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

JEANNIE LEASK. (LL. Drifter)	Base and ship yard of Aldous Successors Ltd. attacked by enemy aircraft at 1315 today. Fore part of H.M.D. JEANNIE LEASK badly damaged. One killed, one injured. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1705/22).
East Coast.	An enemy air unit has been active today between N. Foreland and the Humber reporting shipping. Similar activity by this unit on a previous occasion was followed immediately by "E" boat operations. (D.D.I.C. 1734/22).
Convoy F.N.39.	1 Enemy aircraft bearing 340° height 5000 ft. my position 52° 30' N. 2° 5' E. (VERDUN 1746/22). My 1746 1 Dornier retired northwards. (VERDUN 1757/22). One enemy A/C bearing 320° distance 2 miles course 210° my position 52° 30' N. 2° 5' E. (VERDUN 1802/22). Enemy bombing convoy PILOT in 52° 30' N. 2° 5' E. (VERDUN 1809/22). My 1809. 2 bombs. (VERDUN 1811/22). My 1811. No hits. (VERDUN 1819/22).
DERBY COUNTY.	Report ship being bombed five miles S.W. of Smalls. No damage no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2014/22).
Immingham Enemy A/C crashed.	An enemy aeroplane which flew up the river at 1900 today Saturday and then flew inland believed as far as Sheffield and then on return at 1945 was engaged by light Ak Ak at Scunthorpe and Immingham proceeded as far as Spurn Point then turned back again and on passing over Immingham at 1950 was engaged by light Ak Ak and struck a balloon barrage cable moored in the Timber Pond and crashed at 1952 close to Immingham. Two dead and one badly wounded. One prisoner at Immingham Police Station. (F.O. Humber 2206/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.3.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ABDIEL.

ABDIEL is to be sailed forthwith for Milford Haven to embark an outfit of mines for service. Mines will be ready P.M./22.
(1st. S.L. 0023/22).
1. After embarking mines ABDIEL is to be sailed for Plymouth making the passage in dark hours.
2. ABDIEL will probably be required for an operation on night of 23rd/24th March.
(V.C.N.S. 1300/22).
ABDIEL arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1605/22).
My 1300/22. Intention is to lay as follows on Night 23/24. (V.C.N.S. 2216/22) See Operations Volume.
Sailed ABDIEL. E.T.A. 0700/23.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2332/22).

Operation JN

My 1201/21. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0220/22).
Your 1201/21. Arrived.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0740/22).
A.L. M/C.D. 2032/41 of 14.3.41. Operation B will be carried out by INTREPID, ICARUS, and IMPULSIVE escorted by FERNIE, TYNEDALE, and CLEVELAND to-Night.
Three M.L's from Portland will act as cover to the Westward. Short Title J.N.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1543/22).

Thames Estuary.

At 0040/22 one S.A. Mine detonated. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1014/22).

Z.M.E.25.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1615 today for Z.M.E.25 to lay at midnight returning on completion about 0800 tomorrow.
(PLOVER 1045/22).

LINDENHALL (British, 5248 tons) damaged.

At 1120/20. LINDENHALL damaged by mine supposed dropped on night of 19th instant in Victoria Docks. No casualties. Ship now resting on bottom upright considered not difficult to salve. Seven feet of water in engine room. (F.O.I.C. London, 1500/22).

Faroes
Iceland
Minefield.
Proposed re-inforcement.

Now propose the reinforcing of Faroes to Iceland minefields should be carried out as follows, operations being in order given after completing S.N.4.
Request your early remarks. (R.A.M.L. 1619/22).

/ B.S. 52. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

B.S.52. Departure TEVIOT BANK KITTIWAKE and LA MELPOMENE in company at 1615. (F.O. Number 1619/22).

Harwich. Port closed due to minelaying till 0800 tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1731/22).

Oban. My 0103/13. Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1740/22).

Channel Clearance Sweep. Admiralty 2003/11 and My 1309/15. In view of position of mines cut on 20/3 clearance area should be continued to Southeastward. (V.A. Dover 1815/22).
Admiralty 1709/21. Search of channel one mile wide completed along following approximate centre line. No mines cut or anti-sweeping device suspected. One old floating German V mine sighted and sank by no ANTENNA float seen. (S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla 1903/22).

Operation F.D.32. Details. (F.O.S. 2244/22. See Operations Volume.

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Ship. My 2131/21. Consider ship was Swedish KAAPAREN. (F.O. Iceland 0109/22).
F.O.I.C. Iceland's 2131/21 KAAPAREN is estimated to be in 61° 42' N. 23° 5' W. at 1800/21 B.S.T. outward bound to Capetown.
(C.in C. W.A. 0455/22 to C.in C. H.F.).

Enemy Shipping. At 1540/21, one and a half miles North East of Ameland, Blenheim observed convoy of 10 to 15 ships varying from 3,000 to 200 tons in size heading West, two pairs abreast and in line astern. At 1435 in 51° 15' N. 2° 40' E. Blenheim observed 6,000 ton cargo ship escorted by two trawlers ahead and two E boats behind heading South at 10 knots. At 1436/21 in 51° 18' N. 2° 58' E. A tanker-type vessel of 5,000 tons with one funnel aft superstructure amidships and mast forward, four escorting vessels possibly destroyers, and another large vessel ahead heading South West.
(H.Q.B.C. 0115/22).

/ Enemy Tanker. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Enemy Tanker. — Aircraft report one tanker and two escort vessels steering South West at 10 knots in 059° 15' N. 005° 35' E. at 0920. (F.O.S. 1102/22 to STURGEON).

Shipping off St. Nazaire. — Air reconnaissance at 0700 reports 3 tankers 1500 tons, one M/V. 2000 tons, outside harbour of St. Nazaire. (D.D.I.C. 1251/22).

R/C of St. Nazaire and Brest. — Two large battleships almost certainly GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST, accompanied by a destroyer, reported by aircraft in 47° 17' N. 7° 13' W. at 2021/21st, steering 090 degs. 20 knots. Reconnaissance today showed no large warships at St. Nazaire or Brest. Weather precludes further reconnaissance today. (D.D.I.C. 1557/22).
My 1557/22. Reconnaissance of Brest inconclusive. (D.D.I.C. 1721/22).
Reconnaissance of Biscay ports to-day inconclusive owing to low visibility. There is no further news of German battle-cruisers. (D.D.I.C. 1951/22).

POLYKARP. — Following received begins. Norwegian POLYKARP now a German prize last seen 046° 20' N. 021° 30' W. at 1800Z/20 steering eastwards about 10 knots. Air search to westward of 015° 30' W. at 0900Z today failed to locate. Re-capture crew consider further prizes may be following. Ends.
(C.in C. W.A. 1832/22 to FOLKESTONE, ENCHANTRESS).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.7, Escort.

Decided that NELSON shall escort W.S.7 to Freetown in order to free Force H. for operations against German Battlecruisers.
Probably necessary for NELSON to leave Scapa as soon as she has fuelled.
(1st S.L. 0042/22 to C.in C. H.F.).
W.S.7 is timed to sail so as to R.V. off Oversay Island at 0800.
Requested you will sail NELSON from Scapa to R.V. at that time off Oversay and inform Admiralty earliest date on which NELSON can arrive there.
On receipt of this information convoy will be sailed accordingly.
(D.O.D.(H) 1224/22 to C.in C. H.F.).
Your 1224/22. NELSON can arrive Oversay Island 0800/25 but 26th would be preferable.
(C.in C. H.F. 1450/22 to Adty.).
W.S.7 ORONTES and REINA DEL PACIFICO escorted by COLUMBIA departure Breaksea for Clyde, E.T.A. 1515/23. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1623/22).
My 1746/9, 1802/14 and 1843/21.
Request you will arrange to sail W.S.7 to R/V with NELSON 270° 6 miles from Oversay Light on 25/3 at 0800 B.S.T.
(D.O.D.(H) 2027/22, to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1450/22.
A very large percentage of troops to be carried in this convoy are now embarked waiting at ports vulnerable to air attack.
Other ships who have sailed will have their strictly limited water supply seriously reduced before leaving U.K.
Troops are urgently required in Middle East.
For these reasons it is necessary for NELSON to sail as soon as possible and it is requested you will arrange for her to R/V with Convoy on 25/3. (D.O.D.(H) 2028/22 to C.in C. H.F.).
Admty. 1745/9, Para. 1, for 22/3 read 24/3.
Para 6, NELSON and EDINBURGH will provide ocean escort to Freetown. (D.O.D.(H) 2207/22 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

22.3.1941.
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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BELMONT. (Destroyer). Have been in collision with unknown merchant vessel. Holed port side abreast number one gun. Am returning to Liverpool. Position is 15 miles off Chicken Rock 330 degs. (BELMONT 0045/22).
Your 0045/22. Report immediately whether M/V needs assistance.
(C.in C. W.A. 0506/22, to BELMONT).

DASHWOOD. Tugs LADY BRASSEY and LYNCH are to leave Sheerness P.M. to-day to arrive at DASHWOOD stranded in position 4 miles S.W. of Longsand Head Buoy at 1945. One Trawler conversant with Channels is to form Escort. They are to assist to Tow at High Water and again in morning if Ship does not come off. Report time of sailing so that Fighter Protection may be arranged.
2 Tugs from Harwich will also Tow.
(C.in C. Nore 1220/22).
Intend sailing SHELDRAKE escorting Rescue Tugs KENIA and ST. CLEAR at 1600 today, proceeding to Longsand Head to refloat S.S. DASHWOOD. Request Fighter protection till dark and again at dawn if necessary.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/22).
Sheerness 22nd March arrival tug LADY BRASSEY at 1145.
(C.in C. Nore 1443/22).
My 2101. Position of Ship Ashore 4 miles South West of Longsand Head Buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 2239/21 to CATTISTOCK).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DELPHINIUM.	Your 0300/21. Request you will order DELPHINIUM to Freetown when FORESIGHT and FORTUNE join MALAYA. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0018/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Force H, Biscay Patrol.	A.T.1347/21. Force H. is to complete with fuel at Gibraltar as soon as possible in readiness to proceed on patrol to Westward of Bay of Biscay to intercept SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU should they leave. FORESTER and FEARLESS are to be recalled to Gibraltar to assist with any other destroyers you have available in escorting Force H in and out of Gibraltar. (1st S.L. 0040/22 to F.O.Force H, F.O.C.N.A.)
FEARLESS. FORESTER.	Return to Gibraltar with despatch. Report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 0424/22 to FEARLESS, FORESTER). Cancel my 2230/21. FEARLESS and FORESTER returning to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0810/22).
FORESIGHT. FORTUNE.	Return to Gibraltar report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 0848/22 to FORESIGHT, FORTUNE). (Reply 1111/22).
DELPHINIUM.	Unless in company with MALAYA and if fuel permits comply with Admiralty 0013/21. If fuel does not permit proceed Freetown or as ordered by C.in C. S.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 0852/22 to DELPHINIUM).
8th S.F.	Re disposition. (F.O.S. 1109/22 see Policy).
Destroyers to R/V. Force H.	Intend to sail FEARLESS, FORESTER VELOX, WRESTLER to pass through position 036° 00'N., 011° 12'W. steering 290° at 0800 Zone. 1/23 to R/V with you. (F.O.C.N.A. 1126/22 to S.O.Force H.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Destroyers to R/V. Force H. (Contd.)

Departure FEARLESS, FORESTER, VELOX WRESTLER in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1126/22.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1530/22 to Admty., S.O. Force H.)
Your 1126/22. Amend course to 330°. Signal by 1000/23 whether conditions are suitable for 2 aircraft to land at North front p.m./23. Arrive gate 0600/24.
(S.O.(Force H) 1934/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

POLYKARP.

Norwegian POLKARP now a German prize last seen position 046° 20'N., 021° 30'W. at 1800Z/20 steering eastward about 10 knots. Air search to westward 013° 30'W at 0900Z/22 failed locate. Recaptured crews consider further prizes may be following.
(S.O. Force H., 1150/22 to Admty).

GERDA VITH ANTARKTIS. (German)

My 1100/14. Information about loading of oil on GERDA VITH (? unconfirmed). Believed to have been loaded on ANTARKTIS in drums before she sailed night 17-18/3.
(Consul, Vigo, 1230/22).

Considerations induced by capture of BIANCA etc.

(1) Reference capture of BIANCA and other ships it seems possible these were being used as searching force during passage to occupied France to locate convoy and route being used, Battle Cruiser being stationed in rear to Westward.

(ii) Ships were allowed to fall into German hands intact and Germans used ships wireless constantly to communicate.

(iii) Suggest masters should be instructed to scuttle when enemy character of ship stopping them is definitely established. If this not desirable wireless operators should be prepared to destroy wireless or remove and secret essential components.

(iv) It seems possible in the case of BIANCA and SAN CASIMIRO that if concealed arms had been available on board ships might have been recaptured. Prize crews consisted of merchant service officers and men for most part which armed and determined men might well have overcome.
(S.O.Force H, 1745/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

RENOWN. Your 0040/22. RENOWN required 36 hours in harbour to repair brick work and other engine and boiler defects. Request if ship required to proceed on completion of fuelling. (S.O.Force H, 1922/22 to Admty).

ANTARKTIS. German tanker ANTARKTIS arrived Ferrol 18/3 presumed from Vigo with approx. 8000 tons of oil. Entered dry dock for painting and cleaning and is now in harbour ready to sail. (Guyatt, Coruna, 1930/22).

South Atlantic.

S.L.69. To sail 1300/22. Route. MAURITIUS to escort, REPULSE not required. (V.C.N.S. 0009/22 to C.in C. S.A.) Your 0009/22. Owing to length of route all coal-burning ships (22) will have to drop out, leaving 19 for convoy. Coal-burning ships if routed close to Verde Islands and to west would have 3 days margin and if sailed two days later giving same time of arrival any point could top up to make 4 days margin. (C.in C. S.A. 0629/22 to Admty). Speed and escort dates if coal burners drop out. (C.in C. S.A. 0631N to Admty). Your 0009/22 and my 0631/22. S.L.69 cannot be re-organised in time to sail the 19 ships 22/3 but whole convoy can be sailed today by shorter route closing South and West of Cape Verde Islands. (C.in C. S.A.0959/22 to Admty).

Enemy Unit. D/F bearings at 2010 and 2023 G.M.T./21 indicate enemy surface ship or U/Boat within 80 miles dead reckoning 007° N., 025° W. Reliable 70%. (C.in C. S.A. 0031N/22 to S.A. Squadron, Force X.)

MOST SECRET.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

MAURITIUS, S.L.69.	To proceed to pick up NARKUNDA and comply with Admty 2331/21. (C.in C. S.A. 0103N/22 to MAURITIUS).
FAUSTO Italian.	At Montevideo, has raised steam. Secret source graded C.3. reports some possibility of movements. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0107Z/22).
Operation Summer.	Completed. All Hurricanes flown ashore. (FURIOUS 0945/22).
FURIOUS FOXHOUND DUNCAN DRAGON.	E.T.A. Freetown 1000N/25. FOXHOUND, and DUNCAN in company. Will require seven days in harbour at 48 hours notice to make good defects. DRAGON will embark my maintenanc parties at Takoradi 23/3. (FURIOUS 0946/22 to C.in C. S.A.)
DURENDA.	Due Capetown 18/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1119B/22).
Enemy Raiders.	Am shadowing enemy merchant raiders mean 080° 18 knots bearing ?130° 12 miles. Endeavouring to reach attacking position. My position is 012° 55'N., 027° 10'W. (Force X 1152/22 to Admty). Force X 1152/22. Investigate. (C.in C. S.A. 1325N/22 to MAURITIUS). Force X is SEVERN and is proceeding to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1345N/22 to BULOLO). (Corrupt Group) position MAURITIUS at 1200N/22 013° 30'N., 023° 20'W. Force X. is SEVERN. (C.in C. S.A., 1349N/22 to Force X). Enemy has altered course to westward and contact has been lost. Have insufficient fuel to renew chase in that direction or maintain patrol. Raider resembles WASER though smoke appears to be coal. Alternative identity fruit ship shown in C.A.F.O. 143/41 smoking and with disguised and telescopic funnels. (Force X, 1845Z/22 to Admty). Your 1845Z/22. What was position of raider and approximate course and speed after turn to westward? Your 1152Z only other signal received. (C.in C. S.A. 2031N/22 to Force X).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy Raiders. (Contd.)

Your 2031. 013° N., 027° W. probable mean course 280° 16 to 18 knots. Easterly chase course varied from 040° to 140° later a mean of 180° before turning West, not a set zigzag.
(Force X 2306Z/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM CHRISTIAN HUYGENS.

Your 2215B/21 approved.
(C.in C. S.A. 1202/22 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

French Motor Vessels.

Reported that French, ship CAPITAINE LUIGI arrived Dakar with African troops 16/3. Also that two large ships left 19/3 for North B.3
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1249/22 to Admty).

DELHI.

Your 1302/18. Simonstown dock not available. DELHI cannot be docked at Capetown before 2/4 to change propeller. Should docking at Capetown be ordered or should new propellor be embarked in ship and taken to refitting port.?
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1255B/22 to Admty).

NARKUNDA.

Your 2331/21. NARKUNDA cannot enter Bathurst, draft too great, will want fuel if diverted there. She can proceed independently or return to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1337N/22 to Admty).
Your 1337/22. Approved for NARKUNDA to return to Freetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1821/22).

BIRMINGHAM. S.L.70.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2215B/21 and my 2141/19. BIRMINGHAM will not now arrive Freetown for convoy S.L.70 until 31/3.
(C.in C. S.A. 1423/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Fuelling at Sea.

Desired to compile list of gear required by Capital Ships and Cruisers to enable them to fuel underway by stirrup method from a commercial oiler without special fittings.
Request remarks.
(V.C.N.S. 1442/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CAFJORDCHINE.

Overdue shipping due Zaxte 12/3 from Clyde 6/2 has not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1728/22 to Admty).

German LECH.

Rio de Janeiro reports has commenced loading large shipment of hides. Estimate that discharge of outward cargo will be completed by end of month.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1807/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Raider Intelligence.

R.A.S.A.D. of CANBERRA and LEANDER having sunk COBURG and captured Norway Tanker KETTY BROVIG position 008° 40'S., 061° 25'E., on 4/3 and of information obtained from prisoners.
(C.in C. S.A. 1811/22).

HERMES.

My 1610/21. (Overdue shipping).
Dutch HERMES arrived Takoradi 20/3.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1934/22).

Guns in M/V's.

Under consideration to remove 12 pdr. H.A guns and ammunition from ships sailing Freetown outward bound and to mount these guns in ships already stiffened but not mounting guns bound for U.K. Report whether necessary facilities exist.
(D.T.D. 2041/22 to N.O.I.C. Freetown).

W.S.8.
COMORIN
MORETON BAY.

My 1905/8/2 and Admty. 1505/20/3. In view of date of sailing of W.S.8 request you will sail COMORIN for Freetown when ready. Escort for W.S.8. will be detailed when date is more accurately known. Probably MORETON BAY due to complete refit 14/4 please confirm date for MORETON BAY.
(C.in C. S.A. 2219N/22 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22. 3. 41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Air Activity.	(Summary)13/3. Suda Bay unsuccessfully attacked. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 0959/22.).
RORQUAL.	Leaves Malta p.m./22 (route) operate in Area Q, passing Pantellaria northbound night 23/24. (Cdr. S.I. 1313/22. to URSULA.).
CORDELIA YALOVA (German).	Departure Constantza 22/3, CORDELIA Braila 22/3. YALOVA. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1329/22.).
UPHOLDER.	Orders. (Cdr. S.I, 1357/22.).
Convoy A.N.21.	Arrived Piraeus 1700/22. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1850/22 to LETITIA.).
MARIE MAERSK. (bombed. .	Oiler MARIE MAERSK arrived Suda Bay at 1300 today in charge of navigating party from WATERHEN. Officers and men with exception of one engineer were taken off by WATERHEN. A fire caused by bomb which penetrated a tank and set cargo alight was extinguished by 1800. At least 1000 tons of cargo destroyed, ship damaged, is capable of steaming 7 knots. Impossible to estimate at present if pump machinery can be got working. Two men killed and several wounded. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 2007/22.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MOGAMI MARU. My 0912/21. Sailed 0330 G.M.T./22 for Madras. Ship detained 36 hours and thorough investigation made with negative result. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon, 06252/22, to C.in C. China)

DURMITOR Admty. 1839/6. Request disposal DURMITOR if vessel is condemned in prize. Vessel due Mombasa today 22/3. (C.in C. E.I., 08042/22 to Admty.).

VILLE DE VERDUN
LEANDER French VILLE DE VERDUN passed Sunda Strait 13/3 for Madagascar, carried important persons of Free French sympathies. LEANDER (arrived Mauritius 0400/22) is to proceed to establish patrol off Tamatave from A.M./24. Ship and aircraft are to avoid being sighted from shore. Coast of Madagascar is not normally to be approached within 20 miles. If intercepted VILLE DE VERDUN is to be taken to Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., 12362/22, to LEANDER).

Raiders, fuelling. Your 18232/0. Request any further information available on fuelling methods employed by German Raiders. (D. of P. 1441/22 to C.in C. E.I.). Your 0706 March 22nd. (N.T. in W.D.) Code name C H A P T E R repetition C H A P T E R agreed to and promulgated by A.O.C. British Forces Aden this morning. A.O.C. British Forces Aden requests your concurrence. 16502/22.

Troop Transport TALAMBA Your 0807/7. W.O. request movement of 300 Pioneer Company from Seychelles to Middle East. Suggest they be accommodated in TALAMBA en route from Mauritius to Middle East. (D. of S.T. 1940/22 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT German, left here 2100/22. (Consul, Teneriffe, 2345/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China Imports.	Your 0048/18/1 would be preferable to fix a definite quantity of oil per month which should be permitted to enter Indo-China since the phrase one Dutch tanker per month is not specific. Suggestion. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1627/22 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

MALAYA	Date of arrival Trinidad. Has been hit by one torpedo and may require temporary repairs before proceeding to U.S. port. No casualties. SAN ADOLFGARH to be prepared to fuel MALAYA on arrival. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1111/22, to Capt. 1/c Trinidad).
EMPIRE SILVER LUSTROUS	Ships overdue, have not arrived Aruba, Curacao, respectively. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1554/22, to Admty.).
"R" Reports 16/3.	Report received from S.S. LORETO on arrival Bermuda 22/3 includes following distress messages not previously received at Bermuda. (A) RRRR 43.27 N. 45.18 W., EMPIRE INDUSTRY gunned 0907/16. (B) RRRR 43. 53 N. 43.59 W. SARDINIAN PRINCE shelled 1130/16. (C) RRRR 44.10 N. 44.33 W. MYSON gunned 1312/16. Distress signals were invariably jammed. Sometimes distress message was anticipated and jamming begun beforehand. Suggest ships and coast stations be instructed that, if jamming is experienced frequency is at once to be shifted to say 650 metres and distress signal repeated. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1906/22, to Admty.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Suspicious Warships.	Your 1621/20. (report of warship seen by coastwatcher Keppel Island). Not definitely established. My 0329Z/16, almost certainly U.S.N.Sqdn. My 2038Z/14, report not accounted for. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0523Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

VILLE DE LIEGE.	Following has been read:- SSSS 59.53N., 07.48 W. Suspicious vessel possibly submarine on surface. Requested to stop after receiving our name, now gunning us. (VILLE DE LIEGE, T.O.R. 0545/22). PETUNIA proceed to assistance of VILLE DE LIEGE being gunned by S/M in position to 059° 53'N., 007° 48'W., at 0554/22. (C.in C. W.A. 0606/22 to PETUNIA). SAVILLE's SSSS at 0554 in 059° 53'N., 007° 48'W. This ship failed to determine identification of herself correctly and failed to morse when asked so shot was fired. Both ships now proceeding. (PETUNIA, 0609/22 to C.in C. W.A.)
Unknown ship.	Capsized ship in position 58° 41 N., 08° 15'W. at 1415Z/22. (NELSON, 1951/22 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

2113/21. 2126/21.	By D/F at 2013/21 G.M.T. and 2026/21 G.M.T. Position of enemy unit, probable U/Boat, estimated to be within 150 miles of 7° 00'N., 25° 00'W. (Bearings). (D.D.I.C. 0054/22 and 0206/22).
0032/22.	D/F indications at 2332/21 G.M.T. suggest possibility that MALAYA or CANTON was reported by a U/Boat. (D.D.I.C. 0134/22).
1747/21.	Following is a repetition of my 2254/21. (Not previously recd). D/F indication at 1747/21 suggest that MALAYA may have been reported by U/Boat. (F.O.C.N.A. 0630/22 to FORESIGHT, FORTUNE CANTON, DELPHINIUM.
0032.	Following bearings of probable U/Boat were obtained at 2332/21 G.M.T. and at 00 /22 G.M.T. Additional bearings received from A.W.I. Station do not make it possible to estimate my position. (D.D.I.C. 0647/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Your 0647/22. In view of Freetown bearing 338° and error in tendency of D/F Stations involved suggest U/Boat position at 2332/21 within 100 miles of 028° N., 023° W. reliability 50% Within 300 miles reliability, 90% (C.in C. S.A. 1035N/22 to Admty).
D/F bearings at 2332/21 indicate enemy submarine 100 miles 028° 00'N., 023° 00'W. 50 per cent reliability. Within 300 miles 90 percent reliability. (F.O.C.N.A., 1446/22 to N.Atlantic, amended 1732/22).
Your 0647/22. Suggest U/Boat at 0027Z/22 within 100 miles of 18° N., 23° W. Reliability 50% or within 100 miles of 22° N., 21° 30'W. Reliability 30%. (C.in C. S.A. 1751/22 to Admty).

1603Z, Iceland.

A/C reports submarine 1603Z 062° 20' 026° 30' course (? 180°) unidentified vessel 062° 10' 026° 35' Black 4000 one gun.
(F.O.Iceland, 2251/22 to Admty).

My 2251/22. Submarine was on surface 10 knots. Crash dived when sighted. Unidentified ship has gun aft. Showed no flag or mark, speed 9 knots. A/C tried to contact base by W/T which immediately jammed. A/C contacted RODNEY STAR in position 061° 55'N., 028° 50'W., at 1645.
(F.O.Iceland, 2301/22).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1321/22).

Submarines Attacked.

By CAMELIA.

My 2345/21. Have dropped 20 depth charges and have not regained contact. Continuing until daylight.
(CAMELIA, 0109/22 to Admty, VETERAN).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

German battle Cruisers.

The action and dispositions which are being taken to counter the threat of German Battle Cruisers are detailed in Admty. 1507/23 and 1511/23, NELSON, HOOD and QUEEN ELIZABETH returned to Scapa early this morning.

Air Reconnaissance of the French Biscay ports today failed to locate the enemy battle cruisers.

Western Channel Patrol.

KASHMIR and KIPLING patrolled last night from the Eddystone to the Scillies.

U/Boat campaign.

VISENDA (Trawler of N.P.) attacked a U/Boa this morning.

British tanker CHAMA which had left convoy O.G.56 was torpedoed at 2235 today about 52 miles west of the Scilly Is.

British Air Activity.

Search for enemy battle cruisers.

At 1612/21. G.O.C. Iceland Force asked War Office whether patrols were required on 22/3. No reply having been received by 1516/22, the patrols were sent out. This latter signal was not received by the Admiralty from the War Office until 1222/23.

Reconnaissance and PRU flights were made today to the French Biscay ports. Bad weather rendered the reconnaissance of Brest inconclusive and reports at St.Nazair Lorient, La Pallice and Gironde were negative.

/A Blenheim

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

A.Blenheim claims a direct hit today on one of the escort of a convoy off Brest.

Coastal Command carried out anti-E/Boat patrols from 1700 onwards.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S.43 was unsuccessfully bombed this afternoon, 30 miles S.E. of Flamborough Head.

Five or Six fishing trawlers were bombed this evening about 60 miles north of the Orkneys. ELMIRA was sunk with loss of 10 of her crew and DAGON was slightly damaged by near miss and m.g. fire. Both these vessels fired on the enemy aircraft and possibly damaged it.

Two or three enemy aircraft dropped a few bombs on Sullom Voe this morning. One of the aircraft was destroyed by A.A.fire. No damage or casualties are reported.

MOST SECRET.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations B.S.52.	TEVIOT BANK, escorted by 2 destroyers, laid mines today in the East Coast Barrier.
Z.M.E.25.	This operation, which was to have taken place last night, has been postponed to the night 25/26 March on account of fog.
JN.	INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE escorted by 3 destroyers left Portsmouth at 6002 today to lay mines off Havre.
GV.	ABDIEL, escorted by KIPLING and KASHMIR left Plymouth this evening to lay mines in the Approaches to Brest.

North Atlantic.

S.S. MALANCHA reported being unsuccessfully attacked by a U/Boat at 1825 today in 19° 59'N., 26° 27'W. about 500 miles West of Cape Blanco).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.C.9.

Convoy M.W.6. reached Malta at daylight today. The only incident was the shooting down by the Fleet on 21/3 of a R/C A/C damaged by FORMIDABLE's fighter. On 22/3 A combination of bad weather and evasive routeing allowed C.in C. Med., to find a gap in the enemy's air R/C and slip the convoy through. On the return journey the Fleet was twice sighted today by enemy aircraft, one of which was damaged by fighters.

Air attacks on Convoy M.W.6. at Malta.

Convoy M.W.6. was dive bombed in Malta Harbour this morning but no direct hits were obtained on the ships, though damage was caused to dockyard buildings. The attack was repeated this afternoon: BONAVENTURE and GRIFFIN were slightly damage by near miss, transport CITY OF LINCOLN was hit but her cargo is undamaged, PERTHSHIRE was hit and come of her cargo was burnt. Several German aircraft were brought down during the attacks, by both fighters and A.A. fire. After the raid, the enemy again carried out extensive search for survivors at 40 miles distance.

Air reconnaissance of Tripoli today reported 38 merchant vessels and 4 submarines at Tripoli; one large and 4 medium sized warships were 20 miles to the N.W.

East Indies.

SHOREHAM this morning intercepted the German ODER (8500 tons) near Perim. The ship blew herself up.

LEANDER on patrol intercepted French CHARLES L.D. east of Tamatave (Madagascar) today and sent her into Mauritius under armed guard.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.3.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

CHAKDINA and KANDAHAR were engaged today in an operation against the Fadhli Sultan who has been contravening treaties.
There was no opposition. Naval demolition parties blew up the Sultan's Palace.

? Polius

LOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

NELSON ACTIVE BOADICEA ESCAPADE	Scapa arrivals C.in C. H.F. in NELSON with ACTIVE, BOADICEA, ESCAPADE. (A.C.O.S. 0031/23).
HOOD QUEEN ELIZABETH INGLEFIELD ELECTRA ESKIMO ECHO	Scapa arrival F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. in HOOD with QUEEN ELIZABETH, INGLEFIELD, ELECTRA, ESKIMO, ECHO. (A.C.O.S. 0659/23).
KASHMIR. KIPLING.	Arrived 0800. (C.in C. Plymouth 1021/23).
PRINCE OF WALES.	Taking LIDDLESDALE, QUANTOCK and AVONVALE under her orders PRINCE OF WALES is to sail from Rosyth at 1645/24 and pass over Burntisland D.G. Range, subsequently as follows to pass Dunnet Head westwards at 0600/25. (C.in C. Rosyth 1201/23).
EXETER.	My 1845/21. Owing to possibility of bombing at Plymouth intend sailing EXETER at 1930/24 for Scapa, speed of advance 20 knots, escorted by 5 of 5th D.F. to Lands End, and thence 2 to vicinity of Smalls. 2. Owing to other commitments for 5th D.F. escort beyond this vicinity is unpracticable. (C.in C. Plymouth 1631/23).
RODNEY.	Request time and position at which it is estimated RODNEY will arrive longitude 27° W. (C.in C. H.F. 1716/23). Your 1716/23. At 0200/24 in 59° 50' N. (D.O.D. H. 2239/23 to C.in C. H.F.).
ABDIEL.	ABDIEL escorted by 2 destroyers arrives Bishop Rock 2030/23. Thence as follows. (S. 3. 1923/23 to S/M's Area A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

SOKOL, UNDAUNTED)
SEALION, SUNFISH)
TORBAY, TAKU,)
TUNA, OBERON,)
H.44,)
L.26, L. 27,)
O.9, O.10, O.24)

Movements.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 0025/23, 1934/23)
(S.9. 0631/23)
(S.7. 1406/23)
(S.6. 1811/23)
(F.O.S. 1917/23, 1928/23, 2013/23, 2017/23, 2354/23).
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 2230/23).

S/M's to Operational Control of S.5.

The following submarines are to be transferred to operational control of S.5.
1. All submarines of 7th Flotilla proceeding to Bay of Biscay patrol.
2. Submarines of 6th and 9th Flotillas that have been ordered to Portsmouth.
On arrival of ALACTO, WHITE BEAR, and BREDA at Devonport, Dartmouth, and Portland respectively, these ships are to be transferred to operational control of S.5. and their C.O's are to assume the title S.O. Submarines at the port concerned.
(F.O.S. 1929/23).

Object and Orders.

The object of submarines on patrol in the Bay of Biscay is to attack and then report German warships.
U.Boats are not to be attacked unless identity is established beyond all doubt.
It is of the greatest importance that the positions of submarines on patrol in the numbered positions are not compromised.
Submarines being forced to leave their positions prematurely should not report until well clear of the area covered by the numbered positions unless this is essential
(F.O.C.N.A. pass to S.O. Force H.)
(F.O.S. 2012/23, to S/M's Area A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

HOOD. Your 0431/22. Desirability of HOOD working up is recognised but it is essential to do everything possible to prevent SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU getting out on the trade routes again. Hence she should proceed as ordered in A.T. 0043/22 after re-fuelling.
Patrol should be well to the Westward and positions continually changed to prevent U-boat attack being directed on to HOOD by enemy aircraft.
(1st S.L. 0044/23 to C.in C. H.F.).
Cancel A.M. 0044/23. HOOD is not to proceed to Bay of Biscay.
(1st S.L. 2138/23).

Dispositions. Following action and dispositions are being taken. Details. (1st S.L. 1507/23 and 1511/23)
See Operations Volume.
A.M. 1511/23. Delete all reference to HOOD.
(1st S.L. 2140/23).

Jan Mayen. HOMMINGSVAAG reports operation proceeding satisfactorily. External construction of Station completed. (F.O. Iceland 1235/23).

ORCHIS. My 1128/30. Submarine B.1 will be available at Campbeltown and ORCHIS trials are to have priority over all other commitments.
(D. A/S W. 1322/23).

East Coast Patrol. HOLDERNESS and CATTISTOCK will patrol between Smith's Knoll and 54 F. Buoy tonight and then provide cover ahead of F.S. convoy 43 from Smith's Knoll until daylight.
(C.in C. Nore 1505/23 to HASTINGS, etc.).

MOST SECRET.

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23.3.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Convoy attacked off Ijmuiden.

On 22/3 in 52° 34' N. 4° 35' E. six Blenheims attacked a convoy of about fifteen ships. Bombs observed to straddle one ship, bursts seen 15/20 yards on either side of it. (H.Q.B.C. 0020/23).

Patrol.

My 1944/22. Add patrol U N S T 0730 till 1000. (C.in C. Rosyth 0806/23).
Admiralty request Aircraft be sent to assist VISENDA in locating U.Boat possibly damaged in 210° 4 miles from 62° 37' N. 16° 47' W. (War Office 1406/23 to G.O.C. Iceland).
Your 57917 (M.O.8.) 23/3. Aircraft sent as requested. 30 Wing has reported result through Coastal Command Seaboards. F.O.i/c informed. (G.O.C. Iceland 2330/23 to War Office).

R/C of Biscay Ports.

Air reconnaissance of French Biscay coast has not located SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.
Four reconnaissances were carried out.
(1) Brest - conditions made observations impossible.
(2) Lorient and the coast as far as Pointe du Raz (lat. 48° 2' N).
(3) St. Nazaire and Quiberon Bay.
(4) La Pallice, and the Gironde estuary from Le Verdon to Pauillac.
(D.D.I.O. 2144/23).

Enemy Air Activity.

One aeroplane shadowing 54° N. 14° 12' W. (BROKE 1005/23).
My 1015. F.W. Retired to S.W.
(BROKE 1035/23).

? MILLISLE or LONDON II.

My 2309/21. GOLIATH returned 1600/22 unable to locate bombed ship presumed sunk.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/23).

Convoy F.S.43.

One enemy aircraft bearing 270° of convoy BOOTY in 53° 38' N. 0° 16' E. (HASTINGS 1325/23):
Aircraft bombing convoy. (HASTINGS 1334/23):
One enemy Aircraft bearing 100° from convoy: Position 53°58' N. 0° 33' E. (HASTINGS 1344/23)
My 1334 - 1AP - 4 bombs no hits.
(HASTINGS 1355/23).

Shetlands bombed.
One Enemy A/C destroyed. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Shetlands bombed One Enemy a/c destroyed.

N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports Two, possibly three E.A. made on attack on Sullom Voe at 1135 this morning. One was destroyed after direct hit by 3 inch A/A fire. One or two bombs dropped. No known damage or casualties. Two aircraft passed across south end of island at approximately 2000/22 dropping one or two bombs, one of which exploded harmlessly and others being investigated. (A.C.C.S. 1801/23).

1st M/S Flotilla.

One Bomber dropped 4 Bombs 4 cables clear of sweeping formation at 1725. No damage. (S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla 1919/23).

LEO. (Norwegian, 1367 tons) sunk.

My 1208/19 and 1708/19. Norwegian s.s. LEO on passage from Hull to Reykjavik, having parted company from E.N.86A, was sunk by Focke Wulf A/C approx. 75 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis at 0930/19. Crew of 21 took to boats and were picked up 3 hours later by ECHO and landed Lyness. No casualties. (A.C.C.S. 2005/23).

Minima.

Operation JM.

My 1543/22. Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0002/23).

ZMR. 25.

My 1045/22. Operation Z M R 25 not carried out owing fog. (PLOVER 0800/23). PLOVER's 0800/23. Operation is to be carried out night 25/26. (C.in C. Plymouth 1701/23).

ABDIEL (Operation GV)

Arrived 0800. (C.in C. Plymouth 1027/23).

Operation GV.

By ABDIEL, escorted by KPLING and KASHMIR, during Night 23/24. Details. (C.in C. Plymouth 1257/23) See Operations Volume. Sailed 1630 ABDIEL, KASHMIR, KIPLING. (C.in C. Plymouth 1909/23).

/ Falmouth. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.3.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Falmouth. Mine detonated by S.A. Gear at 1040/22 in 50° 05' 58" N. 5° 30' 34" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1115/23).

Eastern Channel Clearance Sweep. Visibility prevents sweeping this forenoon. Intend anchoring after dark on four fathom ridge until 0500/24 commencing sweeping at daylight. Intend returning to Newhaven P.M. 25. (S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla 1313/23). Limit of area cleared as follows. Mine cut in 050° 46' N. 000° 52' 30" E. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1919/23, 2230/23, 0555/24, V.A. Dover 2155/23).

Thames Estuary 19/3. Correction. My 2214/19/3. Amend as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1545/23).

Operations G.S. It has been decided to repeat operation GS, mines being laid approximately two miles to the westward of the previous line.
2. 20th D.F. to sail for Plymouth night 24/3 having embarked mines.
3. C.in C. Plymouth allocate short title and issue orders for operation.
4. Operation C referred to in A.L. M/O.D. 2032/41 dated 14th March 1941 is postponed. (V.C.N.S. 1609/23).

S.N.4. R.A.M.L. 1531/17. Concur.
(ii) C.S.2 is to sail two ships of 2nd C.S. to provide close escort for 1st M L Squadron. (C.in C. N.F. 1755/23).
Intend to carry out SN.4 as follows. (R.A.M.L. 2349/23) See Operations Volume.

EMINENT. sunk 18/3. (Belgian, 500 tons) Mined and sunk in 51° 29' N. 5° 29' W. at 1345/18. (C.in C. Plymouth 2037/23).

Harwich Area. 4 Parachute mines observed to be dropped at 1700/22 and 2 explosions reported (positions) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2159/23).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. Indications of E Boat activities in Yarmouth Area. (C.in C. Nore 2117/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.7
REVENGE
GEORGIC

Cancel Admty. 2016/14. When A/S Escort parts company REVENGE and GEORGIC are to leave convoy W.S.7 and proceed direct to Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) 0158/23 to REVENGE).

W.S.7
NELSON
to escort.

NELSON screened by 3 destroyers is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 1200/24 to R.V. with convoy W.S.7 in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0800/25 and is to provide additional ocean escort to Freetown.
After making R.V., destroyers are to provide additional A/S escort for convoy, parting company as ordered C.in C. W.A. and returning to Scapa.
C.in C. Rosyth requested to arrange A/S Air escort for NELSON during daylight 24/3. Code word "HEAVY". (C.in C. H.F., 0837/23, to NELSON, R.A.D. H.F., C.in C. Rosyth).
In view of additional battleship with W.S.7 request you will consider strengthening A/S escort of W.S.7 by two further destroyers if possible. (D.O.D.(H) 1321/23 to C.in C. W.A.).
In view of C.in C. H.F's 0837/23, cancel my 1321/23. (D.O.D.(H) 1711/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BROCKLEY. (British, 1564 tons) Of F.S.42. In collision near Sheringham Bell Buoy. One hold flooded. Am escorting her towards Humber speed 6 knots.
(EGLINTON 0202/23).
Departure Tug SABINE 0730/23 to assist BROCKLEY. (F.O. Humber 0814/23).

RICHMOND. (Destroyer) Have grounded near Benbane Head. Damage as follows. Proceeded to Holyhead.
(RICHMOND 0310/23, C.in C. W.A. 2136/23).

H.44. My 1739/22. H44 has arrived Campbeltown with engine defects, estimate complete in 24 hours.
(S.7 0419/23).

DASHWOOD (Grounded 21/3) Attempted to tow off DASHWOOD unsuccessfully. Banking fires and removing (? crew). Will return to Harwich with KENIA and LADY BRASSEY. Leaving ARISTOCRAT A.A. guard.
(SHELDRAKE 1017/23).

MORAR. (British, 1597 tons) Of F.N.39 damaged in collision last night. Diverted to Tyne for repairs. (VERDUN 1215/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H.

Your 1922/22. It is desired that RENOWN and ARK ROYAL should leave Gibraltar as soon as possible. (1st. S.L. 0125/23, to S.O. Force H.).
It is recognised that RENOWN'S bulges require but if it is possible it is essential that Force H should continue to operate against enemy battle cruisers so long as they are in the Atlantic. Request your remarks. (1st. S.L.0130/23, to S.O. Force H.).
Your 0125 not to F.O.C.N.A. Expect to sail about 2100/24. (S.O. Force H.,0401/23, to Admty.).
My 0401. A/C. is bringing requirements of fuel etc. for RENOWN and ARK ROYAL.Request arrangements for immediate supply on arrival and removal of Prisoners and Passengers. (S.O. Force H., 0405/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).
Can RENOWN and ARK ROYAL be fuelled at sea with facilities now available at Gibraltar? (1st.S.L. 1101/23 to S.O.Force H.).
Reply: 0537/24.
Your 0130/23. RENOWN can continue in her present condition but liability of damage recurring if required to steam at high speeds against any considerable head sea. (S.O. Force H, 1329/23, to Admty.).

ANTARKTIS (German).

According to information now received ANTARKTIS sailed 0300/18 following unexpected order received 0100. (Consul,Vigo,1130/23 to Admty.).
ANTARKIS with 8,000 tons oil having docked at Ferrol was expected to sail yesterday 22/3. (D.D.I.C. 1258/23 to F.O.C.N.A., Western Patrol, etc.).

H.G.57. French Prizes.

Your 1200/8/1. Intend sailing three French prizes in H.G.57 24/3, observing that Force H will be sailing to westward later same day. (F.O.C.N.A.1250/23 to Admty.).

/SHEFFIELD.....

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

SHEFFIELD defects.

E.T.A. Gibraltar for SHEFFIELD's convoy daylight 30/3. If SHEFFIELD could be docked on arrival for 24 hours damage to oil fuel tanks due to mines exploding in paravane could be made good. Endurance reduced by 13% until damage is repaired. (SHEFFIELD, 1323/23, to F.O.C.N.A.).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT.

German Tanker left Teneriffe 2100/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 1332/23, to N.A. Stn.). (D.D.I.C., 1527/23 to N. Atlantic, W.Patrol S.O. Force H, etc.).

Oran Reconnaissance.

My 2304/21. Further scrutiny. Almost certain no submarine in commercial harbour but there are four or five what appear to be escort vessels. (F.O.C.N.A., 1744/23 to Admty.).

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1445/23, French destroyer FRONDEUR escorting French merchant ships BAMAKA, light AZROU laden TAMARA, laden, BANFORA, light, passing westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1811/23, to Admty., etc.).

Interception by Force H of BIANCA & SAN CASMIRO.

S.O. Force H. 1834/23, 1829/23. See Lion Cop.

PIERRE ROCHELLE intercepted by MARSDALE.

French trawler PIERRE ROCHELLE, Casablanca to Dakar, boarded 029° 00' N., 012° 36'W., 0015/22. Routed independently to Gibralta through 035° 00' N., 013° 00' W., Speed varying 9 to 11 knots E.T.A. noon/25. Crew antagonistic MARSDALE E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200/24. Considerable work required on defects. (MARSDALE, 1900/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23. 3. 1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.Contd.

ARAWA. S.L.69. COMMANDANT DOMINE.	Departure 1600/23/3 ARAWA as ocean escort to S.L.69 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C in C. S.A. 2011/20, also sailed Fr. sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1131/22/3. Local A/S escort CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, until 29/3, H.M. Trawlers TURCOMAN, PICT until 27/3. (S.O.I. Freetown 1631n/23 to Admty.).
SACRAMENTO VALLEY.	Report of sighting S/M. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.).
CLAN MACNAB.	Damaged in collision night of 17/3,sank at 1600/18. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent,1825/23, to to Admty.).
REPULSE.	Return to Freetown to arrive 0600/25. Keep WISHART and VIDETTE with you. (C. in C.S.A., 1853N/23, to REPULSE.).
FURIOUS. required for hunting group.	Whilst SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU are in Atlantic essential to form as many hunting groups as possible composed of a battle-cruiser and aircraft carrier. Can FURIOUS be made available for this service after embarking outfit of aircraft in U.K., or is some refitting work absolutely essential, and if so what is minimum time required? (1st. S.L., 1941/23, to FURIOUS.). Your 1941. FURIOUS certainly will do it either (a) as now, which would mean running ship to death with real risk of dead stoppage at sea due to worn out auxiliary machinery such as main circulators or (b) after 2 weeks alongside good firm and job tackled in same spirit as in February. During operation SUMMER defects developed (details). If situation permits suggest course (b) above. (FURIOUS, 2201/23, to Admty.). Cancel my 0946/22. E.T.A. Freetown 0600/25. Will be ready to sail immediately drinking water and fuel have been embarked. FURIOUS, 2206/23, to C.in C. S.A.). My 2201/23, principal requirements (details). FURIOUS, 2211/23, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FAUSTO (Italian.).	My 0107Z/22. FAUSTO still has steam raised but shows no other sign of activity. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0112Z/23, to Admty.).
HARPALION.	Overdue shipping. My 2138/21. HARPALION arrived Buenos Aires. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 0201Z/23.).
REPULSE WISHART VIDETTE.	Departures 0600/23 REPULSE WISHART and VIDETTE in accordance with C. in C.S.A.'s 2355/22. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0945/23.).
Cable Operations.	My 1934/16/2. Operations A and B to be carried out by MIRROR as soon as available. A in neighbourhood of Madeira and B in position proposed in F.O.C.N.A.'s 1606/17/2. MIRROR will subsequently be required for urgent repairs in Madeira area. (D.S.D. 1232/23 to C. in C. S.A.,F.O.C.N.A.).
MILFORD SEVERN.	MILFORD is to leave harbour at 1600/23 to to R/V with SEVERN in 010° 10' N. 18° 10' W., at 1500N/24 and escort to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A., 1307N/23.).
MAURITIUS REPULSE S.L.69. FURIOUS.	In order to avoid withdrawing MAURITIUS prematurely from her hunt and at the same time to provide protection for S.L.69, request you will sail REPULSE escorted by DUNCAN and FOXHOUND as soon as available on 25/3 to join S L 69, remaining with it until MAURITIUS can relieve her or her endurance necessitates her return to Freetown. REPULSE will be required to proceed northward with FURIOUS as soon as practicable. NARKUNDA should be sailed with REPULSE to join S.L.69. NELSON will take W.S.7. to Cape. (D.O.D. (F) 1330/23 to C. in C. S.A.).

/ARAWA.....

MOST SECRET.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Raids on Malta, 22/3 DEFENDER damaged, 21/3.	Combined services report Malta up to 1600 hours 22/3. Further to my "I" 192 21/3. DEFENDER sustained slight splinter damage. 6 wounded of which 2 seriously. Enemy air activity. 1400, 10 JU 88's proceeded by 12 ME 109's came in from north and attacked from east and west respectively Bombs dropped S.E. Grand Harbour demolishing some houses and causing damage to buildings in dockyard. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0140/23)
German A/C.	German reconnaissance A/C probably torpedo bomber may be operating in your vicinity this morning 23/3. T.O.O. 0501/23. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0525/23, to SALVIA, VOYAGER, WRYNECK, VENDETTA, FLOXINIA, PARTHIAN, TRUANT.
RORQUAL.	Comsir. S.1. 1403/22 (N.T. in W.R.). You are not to operate to E. of 012° 00'E between latitude 037° 40' and 038° 00'. (Capt. S.1. 1151/23, to RORQUAL).
Air Raids on Malta.	Summary of civilian casualties and damage since entry of Italy into the war (O.A.G. Malta No T.O.O. Recd. 1630/23) see Lion copy only.
Malta Air Raids, 22/3, 23/3. Convoy dive-bombed in Grand Harbour.	Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600 hours 23/3, all times G.M.T. 2030/22 approx. 10 enemy A/C flew over island, no moon, and slight mist, obviously found difficulty in locating targets. Few bombs were dropped in isolated areas and several in sea. 23/3. 0545, enemy fighters with 1 J.U. 88 flew over Grand Harbour at 24,000 feet evidently on R/C. 0945 Dive bombing attack on convoy in Grand Harbour by 15 J.U.87's escorted by 15 M.E.109's. Near misses, but no direct hits on ships. Some damage to dockyard buildings and several persons injured. 1335 hours approx. 30 J.U.87's

/ escorted .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Raids, 22/3, 23/3. Convoy dive-bombed in Grand Harbour. (contd.)	escorted by about 20 M.E. 108's dive-bombed convoy in Grand Harbour. Reports up to present show at least 9 J.U.87's destroyed by fighters alone A.A. claims follow but at least three certain. Slight damage to ships in harbour, details will be communicated by V.A.M. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1650/23).
Hurricanes.	Reinforcements. (Air Ministry 1725/23). See Mediterranean Vol.
EAGLE	Can a forecast be given when EAGLE will be able to pass through Canal? (1st S.L., 1942/23, to C.in C. Med.).
Damage in Air Raids 22/3, 23/3. Convoy M.W.C. BONAVENTURE GRIFFIN.	22/3 R/C by escorted Ju. 88 followed later by attack on Grand Harbour by 10 Ju. 88's covered by 12 Me. 109's Building in dockyard damaged, one military and 4 civilian casualties. During raid there was an engagement between 8 Hurricanes and some Me. 109's outside R.T. range 35 miles from Island. Only three Hurricanes returned reported one Me. 109 and 1 Hurricane shot down in sea, fate of remaining 4 Hurricanes unknown. Night of 22/3. Raid by about 10 aircraft, about 70 bombs dropped, damage slight, 4 civilian casualties. Day 23/3. A.M. R/C by Ju. 88 and fighters as MW six was berthing. Later Grand Harbour was attacked by 18 Ju. 87's and again P.M. by 25 Ju. 87's result as follows: BONAVENTURE near miss, many small splinter holes, one killed. GRIFFIN near miss, large number of small holes perforated Nos. 1 and 3 oil fuel tanks, two severe casualties. CITY OF LINCOLN suffered direct hit demolished bridge, cargo undamaged. PERTHSHIRE had direct hit in No. 1 hold and some cargo was burnt. Dockyard sustained damage, 7 casualties. One Hurricane lost, pilot safe, 13 Ju. 87's were brought down with 4 possibles. Enemy carried out extensive search for survivors after raid at 40 miles distance indicating heavier losses. (V.A. Malta, 2230/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.3.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CARTHAGE	CARTHAGE is to proceed Durban to complete with fuel and leave to resume patrol before arrival of convoy W.S.6 from Durban P.M./25. (C.in C. E.I., 0640Z/23).
Force T.	My 1130/19 Cancel programme after 23/3. On completion of search of Chagos adjust movements so as to arrive Colombo a.m./27. (C.in C. E.I., 0648Z/23, to Force T).
Tug CHABOOL missing.	My 2005/19 search abandoned. Tug and crew must be presumed lost as from 22/3. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0654Z/23).
2nd M.S. Flotilla.	Your 0510Z/19 and my 1118/4. Can the departure of these vessels from Bombay be expedited, as their arrival in the Mediterranean is a matter of great urgency? (D.O.D.(F) 1654/23 to C.in C. E.I.).
CHARLES L.D. intercepted.	At 1352Z sighted French Ship CHARLES L- D bound to Reunion from Diego Suarez with small mixed cargo. Boarded in position 351 C V S V 8. Preparations for scuttling made but not carried out. Majority of Officers and men willing to work ship and vessel is being sent to Mauritius under Armed Guard. Ship transmitted position on 500 kc/s. Am proceeding in accordance with your 1236Z/22. (LEANDER, 1656Z/23, to C.in C. E.I.).
Swordfish A/C, Hurghada	Your 1844/21. Intended use of Swordfish is ultimately for R/C over sea to locate destroyers should they move North from Massawa. Hence my suggested use of Hurghada which is better place than Ras Garib for watching Approaches to Jubal Straits. Grateful if facilities including wireless could be made available for 3 Swordfish if required to be flown to and based for a limited period on Hurghada at short notice from Port Sudan. Until enemy destroyers move from base, Swordfish will be available to co-operate in reconnaissance of Massawa and bombing of destroyers there. (C.in C. E.I., 1848Z/23, to A.O.C. R.A.F., M.E.).

/ VILLE DE VERDUN ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

VILLE DE VERDUN. My 1236/22. Possibility of French sending out a S/M to bring in VILLE DE VERDUN cannot be ignored. LEANDER has been instructed to comply with A.M. 1407/10/1 and 1359/11/3, that is, if a combination of S/M's and Merchant ships is met they are to be left alone unless Admiralty orders otherwise.
If a S/M is met submerged or unescorted on surface and outside Territorial waters it is to be treated as hostile in accordance with 2033/28/8/40.
(C.in C. E.I., 1906Z/23, to Admty.).

EAGLE aircraft, Port Sudan. 17 aircraft will be flown to Port Sudan arriving p.m./26. These will comprise a small number with full crew available for operational work on arrival, the remainder will carry a nucleus maintenance personnel and equipment essential for the upkeep of former. All 17 aircraft cannot be fully operative until approx. 3/4 when main maintenance party should arrive by rail and sea Port Sudan.
(EAGLE, 2114/23, to C.in C. E.I.).

Force T, fuelling. It is necessary that Force T and other ships on E.I. Station should be able to fuel from oilers at sea. Can this be arranged with facilities you have on the station?
(1st S.L., 2326/23 to C.in C. E. I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ERITREA.

Kobe arrival 1900Z/22 Italian Sloop ERITREA. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0659Z/23).
Comment by N.I.D.
ERITREA is a sloop of 2172 tons, maximum speed 20 knots, armed with four 4.7" guns and fitted to carry 100 mines.
She was based on Massawa and was known to be there on the outbreak of war with Italy. No further definite news of her was received until 3/3 when a report (C.2) was received that she had proceeded south 21/2 with women and children.
Distance from Massawa to Kobe is approx. 8,800 sea miles. ERITREA's endurance is 40 days at 10 knots and 27 days at 13 knots. If above report is correct she took 29-30 days to reach Kobe, a journey within her endurance.

America and West Indies.

U/B Fuelling Report.

Information reliable source has reached Consul General Mexico City that German s/m loaded diesel and lubricating oil near Vera Cruz within last 72 hours. Tampico considers rumour spread internationally but is investigating.
(S.O.I., Jamaica, 1031/23 to Admty. etc.)
Comment by N.I.D. This report has been carefully examined and is believed to be entirely without foundation.

CARADOC

Leave patrol A.M./24 and return to Kingston, Jamaica. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1202/23, to CARADOC).

MALAYA

P. c. and s. at 1200Z plus 2, 23/3 019° 50' N. 033° 12' W. 250° 13 knots. CROCUS part company 2000/A.M. Ship has stood (Speed) well. Intend maintaining present speed to Trinidad if fuel permits. E.t.a. 0800Z plus 4 29/3.
(MALAYA, 1330Z/23, to C.in C. A.W.I., C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S.10. — Your 0951/20. Anticipated date of arrival U.S.10 at Ceylon. (A.C.N.B., 1252Z/23).

Contraband Control. — A.C.N.B. Melbourne's 0306Z/20. It is similarly not intended to establish C.C.S. in New Zealand. (N.Z.N.B. 2224Z/23, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ERODONA — British tanker, 6207 tons, in Convoy H.X.112. Presumed torpedoed on 16/3 (D.S. 562). Found abandoned in about 62.22 N., 17.11 W. by VISENDA. (See VISENDA's 1506/23 in S/M's Attacked).
Proceed forthwith to assist ERODONA in 62° 22' N. 17° 11' W. at 1506 today.
H.M.T. VISENDA standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1947/23, to THAMES).
My 1947. When contact is made tow vessel to Reykjavik. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2245/23 to THAMES.).

ANDALUSIAN — ANDALUSIAN torpedoed (one torpedo) 2010/17 014° 33' N. 021° 06' W. Boats remained in positions in which ship was abandoned until daylight but could see no sign of ship thought sunk about 2030/17.
(N.C.S.O. St.Vincent, 1511/23, 1659/23).

MALANCHA (escaped see 24/3) — (British, 8124 tons) Following has been read. SSSS 19.59 N., 26.27 W., MALANCHA missed by torpedo. (Freetown W/T, 1825/23 T.O.R. 1728/23).

Submarines Reported.

0805. — Admty. Message AP position 62° 37' N. 16° 47'W. at 0705/23. G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0903/23 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).
My 1205/23. Fishing trawler reports having sighted U-Boat in 059° 50' N. 008° 20' W. at 0700 G.M.T. 22/3. U-Boat surfaced 1½ miles on starboard beam and chased trawler for one hour before submerging. U-Boat of large type fitted with large clipper bow and carrying two sails set fore and aft of conning tower. U-Boat surfaced and submerged with sails set. No gun was seen.
(A.C.O.S. 1205/23, 1208/23).

1228. — An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit.
(D.D.I.C. 1228/23 to W.A. and Plymouth Commands)
My 1228/23. Probable that formation reported was O.G.56 convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 1244/23 to ENCHANTRESS, etc.).

/ 1510. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.3.1941. Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1510. D/F at 1510 B.S.T. Italian U/B in area 46° to 47° N. 2° 30' to 3° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1611/23).
My 1611/23. D/F indications that one or two more Italian submarines may be in this vicinity, probably further to the South. (D.D.I.C. 2252/23).

22/3. Ref my report of 22/3 SACRAMENTO VALLEY's 1345/23 C.A.F.O. 723/40 and TALBOT BOOTH 1937. No guns or Samson posts seen aft, appeared to have rake stem, was trimmed by stern. (Force X, 1801Z/23, to C.in C. S.A.)
(W.D. Note - Force X is SEVERN).
SACRAMENTO VALLEY reports sighting submarine on surface at 1517 G.M.T./22 in 012° 57' N. 027° 02' W. Did you see this ship's speed, according to C.A.F.O. 2073/40 9½ knots. (C.in C. S.A. 1830 N/23, to Force X).
Note.- May have been H.M.S. SEVERN.
See South Atlantic 24/3.

1923. Message A.F.
Position 19° 39' N. 26° 27' W. at 1823/23 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2029/23).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1350/23).

Submarines Attacked.

By VISENDA. One S/M Bearing 210° distance 4 miles my position 52.37 N., 16.47 W. estimated. (VISENDA, 0805/23, via Lyness W/T).
Made three attacks. Consider U-boat probably damaged. Small wreckage and oil patch seen now lost contact.
(VISENDA, 1000/23, to S.O.T.N.P.).
Admiralty request aircraft be sent to assist VISENDA in locality U/B in position 52.37 N. 16.47 W. (H.Q.C.C., 1310/23, to No.30 Wing).
British ship ERODONA abandoned 8 miles 145 degs from U-boat position now found on observation to be 062° 22' 017° 11' ?. Ship afloat from bridge forward. Apparently abandoned for a considerable time. Considered salvageable. Am returning to U-boat's position, awaiting further orders. (VISENDA, 1506/23, to S.O.N.T.)
Am attacking S/M. 54.02 N., 14.1° W. (CAMELIA, 1615/23).
My 1015, consider non sub.
(CAMELIA, 1124/23).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Watch for Enemy Battle Cruisers

S.O. 1st C.S. (NORFOLK) is to act in general support of the Denmark Strait patrol, operating from Hvalfjord.

RODNEY and 3 destroyers arrived at Iceland this afternoon.

Shipping in Irish Sea

In order to make the most effective use of air escorts the number of ships sailing independently in the Irish Sea is to be reduced by sailing ships in company whenever practicable even if surface escorts are not available.

Convoy C.W. 29 Shelled

Enemy coastal batteries fired 4 rounds without effect at Convoy C.W. 29 while passi: Dover this evening.

U-Boat Campaign

SS AGNETE MAERSK from Convoy O.G. 56 reported being shelled by a U-Boat at 1530 today about 675 miles west of Ushant.

Norwegian tanker THORSHAVET a straggler from Convoy H.X. 114 reported sighting a U-Boat at 1810 today 450 miles W. by S. of the Faeroes.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Owing to the weather, no daylight anti-E-Boat air patrol was possible today.

Lorient and St. Nazaire were covered by air R/C today but R/C of Brest and Bordeaux was unsuccessful.

Routine patrols were considerably curtailed today on account of weather.

Bomber Command last night attacked Kiel, Emden, the Helder, Petroleum Harbour at Rotterdam and Calais.

A Blenheim today reports having sunk a small ship off the Hook of Holland.

Enemy Air Activity

EXETER left Plymouth this evening owing to the possibility of bombing at Plymouth.

A/S yacht WILNA was bombed and sunk this morning off the Nab.

SS ROSSMORE on passage from Hayle to Barry Docks was bombed and sunk at 1745 today 12 miles from Godreavy Island SS MARINA who rescued the survivors was machine gunned but had no casualties.

Trawler CAPETOWN reports a small cargo boat, since identified as SS FINTAN, was bombed and sunk at 1545/22, 7 miles N.N.W. of the Smalls.

MOST SECRET

24.3.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation G.V. — This operation was completed last night (See 23/3)

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

Blyth was closed at 0750 and opened at 0916.

North Atlantic

The Captain of the British SS VOCO arrived at Philadelphia reports seeing gun flashes at 0400 G.M.T./15 in 41° 6' N., 45° 18' W (Possibly SCHARNHORST as members of GNEISENAU's crew captured in BIANCA and SAN CASMIRO which were captured 0800/15 in 39° 30' N., 44° W., and 1030 ships time/15 in 39° 58' N., 43° 19' W stated that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU had not been in company since 11/3)

Search for Enemy Battle Cruisers — Force H (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL) screened by FORTUNE, FORESTER and FORESIGHT arrived at Gibraltar at 0900 today and left at 2316 for patrol west of the Bay of Biscay.

Three or more Italian submarines are estimated to be patrolling off Bordeaux and St. Nazaire.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Attacks on Malta

The ex-Italian ADIGE was damaged and some damage was caused to dockyard buildings by air attack on Malta at dawn today. A high level bombing attack was made on the Grand Harbour by 10 JU 88's with escort of 20 M.E. 109's. There were no service damage or casualties.

F.A.A. Operations

C. in C., Med. reports that on the night of 17/3 three Albacores working from Bengma attacked shipping off the Tripolitanian coast and torpedoed a ship of 1500 tons off El Harrar. One A/C was lost.

Operation M.C. 9.

The Fleet returned to Alexandria at 2300 today. It was sighted twice today, but no attacks developed.

Air Attacks on Convoys

Throughout the period 20/3 to 24/3 enemy aircraft working from Rhodes have been active against our convoys. In addition to MARIE MAERSK (see 22/3) in Convoy A.N. 21, Convoy A.S. 21 under Greek escort plus SALVIA was bombed S.E. of Crete and Greek NIKOLAOS EMBIRIKOS was sunk and Norwegian SOLHEIM bombed and abandoned. F.A.A. fighters working from Crete have assisted as far as possible, but very drastic measures are necessary to deal with aerodromes in Rhodes.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.3.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

Convoy H.X. 117.

The advance sailing telegram for H.X. 117 includes 62 ships, or 22 above the limit imposed by Admty. 1246/29/12. D.T.D. has directed that ships above 40 are not to be held and that if necessary the convoy is to sail in 2 sections in close company on the same route with an additional Commodore.

U-Boat Campaign

The D/F bearings from which it was thought that a U-Boat was proceeding to operate on the trade routes off Newfoundland (see 14/3, 15/3. 16/3) are now thought to have originated from a surface vessel.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dartmouth Patrol Boats.

Ref. 1339/21 three patrol boats only are in running order at the moment. There should be at least ten to maintain an efficient patrol of six boats per night. Proposals. (M.C. Dartmouth 1220/24).

Iceland Proposed inclusion in W.A. Command.

In view of the anticipated increased use of Iceland in connection with the defence of trade in the N.W. Approaches it is under consideration to include Iceland in the Western Approaches Command.
2. The proposed dividing line between the Western Approaches and A.C.O.S. Commands is to be from Cape Wrath to the North Eastern limit of Iceland, thence to the coast of Greenland in longitude 30° W.
3. Request your very early remarks.
(D.O.D. H. 2246/24).

Movements.

NELSON.
CURACAO.

Scapa arrival 1201 CURACAO.
Departures 1202 NELSON, ARROW, ESKIMO, and ECLIPSE. (A.C.O.S. 1225/24).

EXETER
KELLY
KASHMIR
JACKAL
KELVIN
KIPLING

Regret no surface escort available for EXETER.
(C.in C. W.A. 1507/24).
Sailed 1920 EXETER. E.T.A. 0730/26.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2031/24).
Your 1603 KIPLING is not to sail.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1803/24 to D.S).
Sailed 1915 KELLY KASHMIR JACKAL KELVIN.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2023/24).

RESOLUTION.

My 1937/19 and 1321/19 and C.in C. Portsmouth's 1747/20 C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail RESOLUTION p.m./1/4.
It is anticipated that maximum speed of RESOLUTION will be 15 knots.
RESOLUTION should be routed to Halifax in the first instance. Final destination will be signalled later.
(D.O.D. H. 1610/14).

RODNEY.

RODNEY, COSSACK, ZULU, MAORI arrived.
(F.O. Iceland 1645/24).

/ PRINCE OF WALES. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

PRINCE OF WALES. — Sailed PRINCE OF WALES, QUANTOCK, LIDDESDALE, AVON VALE in accordance with my 1201/23. (C.in C. Rosyth 1700/24).

JACKAL. — Join EXETER if possible who passes 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 2230 routed in accordance with C.in C. Plymouth 1847/23 speed 32 knots. Otherwise join KELLY who will steer 117° to pass 180° Lizard Head 9 miles at 0115 then alter to 090° speed 14 knots. (Capt. D.5 2031/24 to JACKAL).

Operations.
Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

SEALION
SUNFISH
SOKOL
UNDAUNTED
TAKU
TIGRIS
TORBAY
TUNA
UNION
UNBEATEN
OBERON
L.27
O.9
O.10.
O.24.

Orders and Movements. (C.in C. Nore 1130/24) (Capt. D. Londonderry 1214/24) (F.O.S. 1709/24, 1811/24, 1856/24) (C.in C. Plymouth 1919/24) (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1935/24).

H.class S/M's and O.9, O.10. Deferred sailing. — Defer sailing of H Class Submarines and Netherlands O.9 and O.10 until further orders. Submarines to remain at four hours notice for sea. (F.O.S. 2129/24).
My 2012/23 paras. A and B. When in free-for-all area to southward 048° 30' N. the object of submarines addressed is to attack all ships except U-boats. U-boats are only to be attacked if their identity is established beyond doubt.
(F.O.S. 2213/24 to TORBAY, TAKU, TUNA, OBERON, L.26, L.27, and O.24).

/ Falmouth, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Falmouth, Portland, Dartmouth. Bombing Restriction Areas.

F.O.A.4. It is not intended to establish additional submarine sanctuaries off Falmouth, Portland and Dartmouth. S.5 is to arrange that suitable T.B.R. areas are imposed as necessary off these ports to cover arrivals and departures of submarines. (F.O.S. 1233/24).

1st. C.S. 4th D.F.

My 0004Z/17. It is my intention that you should act in general support of Denmark Strait patrol operating from Hvalfjord and that you should co-ordinate operation of any force that may become available in that area for U Boat hunting or as additional support.
(ii) Use your discretion when to remain in Hvalfjord for any periods longer than is required for refueiling keeping me informed of your intentions.
(iii) Captain (D) 4th D.F. and his Destroyers will probably be required to screen KING GEORGE V to Scapa from 025° W. at about 22/3 possibly calling at Hvalfjord if KING GEORGE V requires fuel.
(C.in C. H.F. 1154/24 to F.O. 1st C.S.).

Operations of D.S, 21/3, 22/3.

C.in C. Plymouth 1937/24 See Lion Copy.

Convoy C.W.29 shelled.

C.W.29 passed Dover at 2020. Coastal batteries fired four rounds at about 2010. No damage reported.
(V.A. Dover 2141/24).

E-Boats off Lowestoft. D.16 attacked.

Indication of E.boats. (Yarmouth W/T 2059/24) Bearings (Yarmouth W/T. 2103/24, 2203/24, 2230/24).
E.Boats bearing 024° Lowestoft 20 miles.
(Capt. D.16 2249/24).
My 2249. Torpedo sighted.
(Capt. D.16 2254/24).

E.Boat off Haisborough.

Suspected E.Boat activity vicinity Haisborough.
(C.in C. Nore 2127/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following Patrols will be flown today:
TROST STAB BERT.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0236/24).
My 0236/24. Add FAIR is in operation.
Patrols TROST, STAB, and BERT cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0738/24).

Operation G.X.

Admiralty 1609/23. Request arrangements may be made for Bomber Command to carry out a diversionary bombing of Brest between 2300/25 and 0300/26.
2. Short title for minelaying operation is G X.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1239/24).
C.in C. Plymouth 1239/24.
Request bombing diversion may be arranged.
(D.D.O.D. M. 1859/24 to Air Ministry).

Bombing Restriction.

Request bombing restrictions for 3 destroyers tonight between 3° and 6° W. and North of 49° N. (C.in C. Plymouth 1351/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy SWIFT.

Fighter protection has been sent to SWIFT (One Destroyer one Merchant Vessel).
(Lyness W/T 0815/24).

Unknown Ship sunk 22/3.

Trawler CAPETOWN reports at 1545/22, seven miles N.N.W. of Smalls, seeing a Coastal cargo boat name unknown being bombed and disappeared after a direct hit. One survivor picked up but since died.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1215/24).

ELMIRA (Trawler) sunk 23/3.

Trawlers DAGON and ELMIRA while on passage to Faroes shipping grounds were attacked by E/A and ELMIRA sank. ELMIRA carried crew of eleven. One survivor. No casualties in DAGON which is proceeding Faroes.
(A.C.O.S. 1235/24).
While 5 fishing trawlers in company were on passage Grimsby to Faroes and in 59° 55' N. 03° 40' W. at 1815/23/3 they were attacked from low level by E/A. ELMIRA was sunk with loss of 10 crew. One survivor picked up by DAGON which was slightly damaged by near miss and machine gun fire. E/A was fired on by ELMIRA and DAGON and possibly damaged.
(A.C.O.S. 1245/24).

/ Fishing trawler ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

ELMIRA (Trawler) 23/3. (Contd.)	Fishing trawler SAINT AGNES SN 88 reported at 1815/23 March she and 5 other trawlers were bombed by aircraft about 60 miles north of Orkneys. Trawler ELMIRA was sunk with all hands. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1725/24).
WILNA (A/S Yacht)	Bombed and abandoned 090° N. Nab one mile at 0835/24. All crew safe. Vessel subsequently sank in 057° Nab 2,400 yards. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1523/24).
Convoy C.W. Odd.	One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy. My position 50° 29' N. 1° 23' E. (BLENCATHRA 1704/24).
Convoy F.N. Odd.	One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy PILOT. My position 52° 8' N. 1° 53' E. (GUILLEMOT 1707/24).

Mining.

Drifting Mine.	Intercept 0548 G.M.T. from OLDENBURG. (German ship) Drifting mine in 54° 29.5' N., 11° 28.5' E. 0545 G.M.T. 0651 ends. (F.O. Humber 0702/24).
Blyth.	Port closed. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0750/24) Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0916/24)
3 British Mines sunk.	Sunk three British mines in 55.25 N. 06.50 W. (VERITY 0809/24).
Thames Estuary.	One S.A. mine detonated at 0737/24 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0935/24).
S.N.4.	My 2349/23. Item (f) amend second position as follows. (R.A.M.L. 1051/24).

/ Iceland. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Iceland.

Icelandic (Auxiliary Patrol) Protection Ship THOR now been instructed in sinking or towing ashore drifting mine.
Recovered mine 066° 04' N. 019° 12' W.
Another sunk 066° 12' N. 019° 11' W. Both mines British Mark 2°.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1235/24).

Reinforcement of Faroes-Iceland Minefield.

Your 1619/22.
1. Concur that (a), (b) and (c) should be laid first, the sequence of these three fields being decided by C.in C. Home Fleet.
2. Order of laying (d) and (d) is concurred in.
(V.C.N.S. 1346/24).

G.V.

Arrived 1245 ABDIEL KASHMIR KIPLING.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1349/24).

Off Falmouth.

Mine cut in 050° 09' 00" N. 004° 51' W. at 1515/23.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1509/24).
ABDIEL has completed operation G.V.
Ship has number of defects but can be ready for sea p.m./26.
Propose ship should carry out another lay and then proceed to Cowes to make good defects.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1646/24).

G.S.

Intend to sail 20th D.F.
Expected time of departure Spithead 2015/24.
E.T.A. Plymouth P. of A. 0600/25.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/24)

Eastern Channel Clearance Sweep.

Your 1023. Westbound convoy will pass Dungeness about 2359 today Monday. You are to anchor at least 3 miles inshore of Q.Z.S. 223.
Two M.L.'s will patrol between No.10 buoy and 5 miles S.W. of D. buoy after convoy has passed.
(V.A. Dover 1519/24 to M.S.L.).
My 1919/23. Clearance extended to line joining following three positions.
No mines cut. Small (corrupt group) exist at eastern edge about one and a half miles north of above limit which will be cleared to-morrow.
(S.C. 1st M/S F. 1941/24).

Liverpool.

2 Mines detonated by L.L. Trawler in 121° Bar Light Vessel 1.3 miles. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1823/24)

B.S.53.

Particulars. (A.C.N.S. T. 2023/24).
INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE sailed.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2103/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German Recognition Procedure.	Following information on the subject of German recognition procedure is promulgated for information. (D.S.D. 1452/24).
BRITISH ADVOCATE. SPEYBANK.	British tanker BRITISH ADVOCATE probably captured by SCHEER about 19/2 in Seychelles area, may be returning to Germany, Norway, or France. She may have British crew and other prisoners on board. Cargo of petrol. British SPEYBANK, last reported in company with raider in Indian Ocean 28/2, reported being worked by own crew to carry prisoners. Present whereabouts unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1611/24) (V.A.N.P. 2210/24).
TAIPING. TARONGA.	My 2043/20 and 2332/12. TAIPING returned to Oslo on 22/3. TARONGA may leave about 27/3. B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1626/24).
Stadtlandet Area.	In a Norwegian notice dated 16/12 /40 fishing is prohibited by order of the German Authorities in the British declared area off Stadtlandet. It is possible that the report contained in my 1638/19/3 was based on this notice, but the laying of enemy mines in this area is possible. (D.D.I.C. 1653/24 and 0032/25).
Convoy F.N.41. Possible E-Boat Attack.	Nature of enemy air activity in Thames Estuary indicates a possible E/B attack on convoy F.N.41. (D.D.I.C. 1802/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.3.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Air Attacks in Irish Sea

My 1850/3 (increased air attacks on shipping in Southern Irish Sea) To make most effective use of air escorts. Important further to reduce number of ships sailing independently both to North and South. This applies to categories (B) and (C)
Until a schedule of group sailings has been organised, N.C.S.O's are to arrange to sail ships in company whenever practicable although surface escorts may not be available. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1107/24)
My 1850/3 and 1107/24. Request you will arrange the grouping of Bristol Channel shipping both northwards and southwards, with or without escorts.
Request also you will discuss with F.O.i/C Milford Haven possibility of using 8th A/S group for escorting as far as Milford Haven when returning from Barry. (C. in C., Plymouth 1735/24 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.41.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

DASHWOOD. (Grounded 21/3)

Departure A/S Trawler escorting tugs KENIA and LADY BRASSEY to attempt refloat S.S. DASHWOOD.
(P.O.I.C. Harwich 0737/24).

REINA DEL PACIFICO

Has struck some sunken obstacle in approx. 51° 22' N. 3° 35' W. Master reports following damage. Speed could not exceed 15½.
(P.S.T.O. Clyde 1129/24, to P.O.I.C. Greenock 1203/24).

MANSFIELD.

(Destroyer) Broken down in 056° 14.5' N. 010° W. at 1100/24. SALISBURY towing, course 135°. Request tugs as ship's towing gear is indifferent.
(DOUGLAS 1230/24).
SALISBURY reports MANSFIELD proceeding under own power but is unreliable. Tugs not required. SALISBURY is continuing as escort to Londonderry.
(DOUGLAS 1745/24).
Proceed with all despatch to assist MANSFIELD broken down and in tow of SALISBURY speed 6 knots course 135°. Position at 1100 was 56° 14' N. 10° 00' W.
(P.O.I.C. Greenock 1839/24).
My 1839/24. ASSURANCE sailed.
(P.O.I.C. Greenock 1940/24).
Return to base. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 2135/24 to ASSURANCE.).

SPIRAEA. (Corvette)

My 1207/23. SPIRAEA unable to sail due to boiler defects. (P.O.I.C. Liverpool 2144/24).

WHITEHALL.

(Destroyer) Has developed defect and ST.CLAIR From Londonderry has been ordered to take her place. (C.in C. W.A. 2250/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Force H, request for SHEFFIELD.

Consider inclusion of a Cruiser preferably SHEFFIELD with R.D/F and asdic in Force H whilst operating in Bay of Biscay would be of greatest value. This would facilitate interception and examination of suspicious vessels (without?) disclosing presence of RENOWN and also night shadowing of enemy. Failing cruiser a fast A.M.C.
(F.O. Force H, 0536/24, to Admty.) Your 0536/24. Neither SHEFFIELD nor an A.M.C. can be spared at present. Your requirement will be borne in mind.
(D.O.D. (F) 1709/24 to F.O. Force H).

Fuelling at sea.

Your 1101/23. Yes when oiler present under fair weather conditions. Suggest CAIRNDALE be maintained at (place) under red ensign or ordered to cruise in some convenient latitude (given)
(F.O. Force H., 0537/24, to Admty.) Orders to CAIRNDALE (D.O.D. (F) 1751/24 to F.O.C.N.A. - see Operation Volume).

BIANCA
SAN CASIMIRO
(intercepted by Force H 20/3 after capture by raider.)

Ref C.A.F.O. 770/40.
(i) (a) Norwegian BIANCA (b) 15/3 0800 in 039° 30' N 044° W. Master, Arne Gronning-seter D.M.S. 1 and consigs may be in enemy hands.
(ii) (a) British SAN CASIMIRO (b) 15/3 1030 ship's time in 039° 58' N 043° 19' W (g) Mr. R.E. Kirkley Chief Officer (h) all books disposed of.
(RENOWN, 0843/24, to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Following obtained from German Prisoners ex Battle Cruiser GNEISENAU. Reliability cannot be assessed. (ii) GNEISENAU left Kiel 23/1. (iii) Oiled at sea during night about 10 times, receiving each time approx 900 tons stated to be one quarter full stowage. (iv) GNEISENAU last in company with SCHARNHORST in 030° N 30° W on 11/3. (v) MALAYA'S aircraft sighted on 8/3. (vi) GNEISENAU used Air Arm Aircraft for R/C Red rectangles painted on forecastle and poop of both DIANCA and SAN CASIMIRO after capture by Germans. (vii) GNEISENAU maximum speed stated to be 26 knots. Following from crews of captured ships (graded A.1.) (viii) In both cases GNEISENAU closed to within a few hundred yards before sending boat. (ix) SAN CASIMIRO reports approached by a Tanker shortly before GNEISENAU came in sight. Tanker which was about half loaded similar in appearance to but not BIANCA.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

(x) Germans transmitted from (corrupt group) and SAN CASIMIRO on 24(?.9.), 27 and 705 metres latter when in mid Atlantic and may have been used for communication with GNEISENAU. Reception on 28.77 metres four letter code used. No enigma machine observed. (S.O. Force H, 0920/24, to Admty).

GERDA VITH (German)

Indications is painting colours on sides preparatory to sailing.
(Consul Vigo, 0955/24).

Force H, W/T

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL will shift to Home Station Area B W/T organization at 0800/26 W/T guard will be maintained on Gibraltar broadcast when near limit of Atlantic Station.
(S.O. Force H 1759/24 to Admty).

ERNA OLDENDORFF (German)

My 1030/4/2 30 tons coal reported to have been sent yesterday to ERNA OLDENDORFF Pontevedra Bay.
(Consul Vigo, 1800/24. to Admty).

MIRROR, cable operations.

Your 1232/23. Intend carrying out these operations after MIRROR undocks on 31/3.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1818/24 to Admty).

ARK ROYAL A/C reces. for HIPPER.

R/C carried out by ARK ROYAL 17/3 and 18/3 covers sector 230° to 260° from Brest for speed 23 to 17 knots assuming ADMIRAL HIPPER left dusk 15/3. Negative results suggest HIPPER passed South of Azores or North of 260° from Brest.
(S.O. Force H, 1835/24 to Admty).

Plans to intercept SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Your 0049/22(?.0040/22) Assuming enemy leave Brest at dusk speed between 25 and 18 knots course between shore based reconnaissance starting at 0700 following are proposed plans.
(S.O. Force H 1931/24. to Admty).
My 1931/24. Following information required each day. (Air Reconnaissance)
(V.A. Force H, 1923/24, to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued.)

SAVONA
TRAPANI
(German)

Left 23/3 for Marseilles.
(Valencia. 2015/24).

South Atlantic.

CHRISTIAN
HUYGENS
BIRMINGHAM.

Cape Town departure 1035/23 transport CHRISTIAN HUYGENS at 16 knots for Freetown. E.T.A. 1/4. My 1003/23 to C in C S.A. and BIRMINGHAM only, BIRMINGHAM will be within four hours steaming of CHRISTIAN HUYGENS for only 32 hours during passage.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown,0850Z/24. to C in C S.A.)
Capetown departure 1145/24 BIRMINGHAM at 23 knots for Freetown, E.T.A. 0700/30. BIRMINGHAM is providing distant cover for CHRISTIAN HUYGENS.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1230Z/24. to C in C S.A.)

South African
Ports.

From Vice Adm. Turner. Inspection of Commercial Ports Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and East London. Urgent requirements and recommendations.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0930B/24 to Admty. C in C S.A.)

SEVERN
enemy report
22/3.

My 1335/23 to SEVERN only and your 1801Z/23. Did you see one ship or two about this position and time? If two ships one would appear to be raider if one ship this would appear to be SACRAMENTO VALLEY. (C) Position(s), sufficiently near (? presume) it almost certain that submarine seen was SEVERN.
(C in C S.A. 1041N/24, to Force X).
Message 1041 N/24 groups 12 to 20 not received. My 1845Z/22 should read 1745Z/22. One vessel only in sight from 0810N until 1505N/22. Speed of suspect appeared high observing SEVERN maintained 18½ knots from 0830 until 1400 only gaining 135° of bearing SEVERN dived at 1505N. Admty. ?1759/15 SACRAMENTO VALLEY should have been N.E. Cape Verde Is. on 22/3. It is also significant that reputed SACRAMENTO VALLEY did not report forthwith in accordance with Admiralty merchant shipping instructions but waited until 23 hours had elapsed.
(Forec X, 1720Z/24, to C in C S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

Greek GRANICOS	Overdue shipping, due Durban 19/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1108B/24).
REYNELLA	Overdue shipping departure 15/3 from Lobito for Capetown, not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1150B/24). B X 106 24/3 life boat containing survivors reported off Gambia. Request permission L.5805 carry out search today. (O.C. R.A.F. Bathurst 1205/24 to C in C S.A.
MULBERA	Your 1841/23. Confirmed MULBERA sailed for Cape 8/3. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1220/24 to Admty).
MARATHON	Correct my 2046/22 originally received very corrupt). Your 1653/21. Any news of Greek MARATHON sailed Ponta Delgada 5/3. No. 1154/19/3 from S.O.(I) Freetown refers. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1556/24 to Admty).
LECH MONSERRATE (German)	New York German paper states (A) LECH at Rio de Janeiro commenced loading 20/3 70,000 bags coffee, hides and other goods (B) MONSERRATE at Callao commenced loading 20/3 700 tons of wool, loading to take three days. Destination believed Vladivostok. (N.S.H.R. Ottawa 1632/24 to Admty).
FRISCO	Ceara reports Captain of Italian LIBRATO has arrived Ceara to replace Captain of Italian FRISCO. FRISCO is purchasing 500 gals. lubricating oil. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1803Z/24).
ANTONIO LIMONCELLI.	Fire on board at Moranhas on 18/3. (D.S. 567).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

A/A personnel. — of ships sailing independently from U.K. ports. Re retention. (C in C S.A. 2145/24).

Mediterranean.

F.A.A. attack on shipping. — My 0945/17. On the night of 17/3 three Albacores of 826 Squadron working from Bengna attacked shipping off Tripolitanian Coast and torpedoed a ship of 1500 tons off El Harra, one aircraft failed to return. My 1520/18. (ii) On the night of 19/20 March four Swordfish of 805 Squadron attacked Albanian ports. One which went to Valona had to return with engine trouble. Three attacked Durazzo harbour two explosions seen but result unobserved owing to bad weather. (C in C Med. 1048/24.)

MAX BERENDT — German, sailed about 4 this morning. (Powe Alicante T.H.I, 1100/24).

WAIMARA. — Ashore near Rosetta. Learn two Admiralty tugs have gone to assist, believe vessel on Admiralty charter. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1111/24 R.A. Alexandria, 1201/24 to Admty. for Lloyds).

Enemy Convoy. — Secret source reports that at 0715B/24 2 enemy merchant vessels passed Kelibia Roads light escorted by destroyer Cosenz Class steering south. (S.O.(I) Malta, 1215/24, to Admty).

Malta Air Raids. — My I. 194, 23/3 enemy victims for 2 dive bombing raids now confirmed. By Fighters 9 confirmed 1 unconfirmed, 2 damaged. By A.A. 4 confirmed, 4 damaged. All were JU 87's and crashed in sea. At dawn today 0406 hours 6 unidentified aircraft dive bombed dockyard. Some damage to dockyard buildings and to ex-Italian S.S. ADIGE. 0655 hours 1 JU 88 escorted by 3 ME. 109's carried out reconnaissance of Grand Harbour at 24,000 ft.

Glenn Martin.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Raids.	Glenn Martin reported 0830 one destroyer, one Tanker, one M/V 6,000 tons laden in position 33° 15' N, 11° 35' E, course 180° speed 7 knots. At 0800, 1 M/V 8,000 tons unladen, position 36° 15' N, 11° 25' E. course 358° speed 9 knots. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1630/24).
Enemy prisoners in Greece.	Re removal from Greece of all air crew prisoners of war and specialists and technicians of other arms. (W.O. 1725/24. to C in C M.E.)
F.A.A. Operations.	C in C Med. 1750/24 see Mediterranean Volume.
Air Reinforcements for Malta.	(H.Q. Malta 1850/24 in reply to Air Ministry 1725/23) See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ODER intercepted by SHOREHAM	SHOREHAM intercepted a four masted merchant vessel in neighbourhood of Perim at 2100Z/23. Vessel blew herself up at 2135Z/23. (C.in C. E.I., 0106Z/24, to Admty.). My 0106/24. Ship was German Ship ODER (8,500 tons) Sank in 12° 30' N. 43° 18.5'. 16 survivors captured. (C.in C. E.I., 0534/24, to Admty.).
French Cruisers, GLOIRE, MARSEILLAISE, MONTCALM.	French cruisers GLOIRE, MARSEILLAISE, and MONTCALM may pass through E.I. Station for Far East in near future. If met, to be treated as neutral, but although it is not expected that they will attack, H.M. Ship are to be ready for all eventualities. (C.in C. E.I., 0536Z/24, to E.I. Squdn.).
MOGAMI MARU	In view of N.O.i/c Rangoon's 0625/22 instructions in my 0802/10/10/40 have been cancelled. (C.in C. E.I. 0608Z/24).
2nd M.S. Flotilla.	Your 1654/23. Departure date of 2nd M/S Flotilla from Bombay determined by necessity for boiler cleaning of ABERDARE and HARROW and by fuelling arrangements at Masirah for passage to Aden. F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to expedite above as much as possible. (C.in C. E.I., 0634Z/24, to Admty.).
DURMITOR	Your 0804/22 and N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar's 1620/9. Insufficient evidence to justify institution of prize court proceedings in regard to DURMITOR. Negotiations with owner are proceeding with a view to her being either requisitioned or chartered. Further instructions will be signalled concerning her disposal. (D.T.D., 1055/24, to C.in C. E.I.).
CHARLES L-D.	Ref. 1655/23 from LEANDER, French ship arrived here. Details of cargo follow. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1144Z/24, to Admty., C.in C. E.I.) My 1144/24. Following Officers did not assist in working ship and refuse to assist in future, Captain, First Mate, 2nd Mate, One Cadet. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1501Z/24).

/ GLASGOW,
S.U.2,
ILLUSTRIOUS ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

GLASGOW, S.U.2, ILLUSTRIOUS — Convoy S.U.2 left Aden escorted by GLASGOW. Route as in C.E.M. 0658/11. E.T.A. Mombasa and Durban. ILLUSTRIOUS joins convoy in Gulf of Aden. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1230Z/24).

HAWKINS — My 0743/22. HAWKINS is to leave patrol so as to arrive Mombasa A.M./27.
(C.in C. E.I., 1442Z/24, to HAWKINS).

EAGLE — Your 1848/23.
Owing to urgency for operating EAGLE on the trade routes, her aircraft and personnel must re-embark in EAGLE as soon as she arrives at Port Sudan.
(D.O.D.(F) 1622/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

China.

AUGSBERG renamed TEIRYU MARU. — Chinwangtao departure 22/3 for Nalamatsu, TEIRYUMARU ex German ship AUGSBERG.
A.I. reports ship was transferred to Japanese flag on 28/2. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0443/24).

ELSA ESSBERGER ANNELIESE ESSBERGER. WINNETOU — Departure from Kobe, ELSA ESSBERGER 23/3 after fuelling from WINNETOU. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER, 24/3. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1444Z/24).

America and West Indies.

Raider Report. VILLE DE LIEGE. — Following has been read.
RRRR, Armed Merchant Raider VILLE DE LIEGE 63.00 N., 27.10 W., stopped.
(Seaforth Radio, 0423/24).

MONSERRATE. — German, at Callao, loading. (See South Atlantic).

CANTON. — Admty. 1533/21. CANTON is due to refit at Belfast as soon as available.
She may be used to escort returning convoy if this will be of assistance to R.A. 3rd B.S. but should not otherwise be delayed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1538/24 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/ H.X. 177. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

H.X.117.	H.X.117 Ref your 1421/23 (Advance sailing telegram showing 62 ships) and my 1246/29/12/40 para.1. Ships in excess of 40 are not to be held. If necessary convoy should be sailed in 2 sections in close company on same route with additional Commodore. (D.T.D. 1935/24 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.).
Ships attacked at 0500/15.	Capt. of Br. ship VOCC arrived Philadelphia reports seeing gun flashes in 41.06 N. 45.18 W. at 0400 G.M.T./15. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2005/24, to Admty.).
Enemy Unit W. of 35° W.	My 1345/14 and 1406/15 and 1319/16. It is now considered unlikely that a U/B was in fact located west of 35° W. D/F bearings on which this information was based are thought therefore to have originated from a surface vessel. (D.D.I.C. 2020/24 to C.N.S. Ottawa, C.in C. A.W.I., C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHAMA (torpedoed 23/3)	British tanker, 8077 tons. Following received from ENCHANTRESS. (Begins) CHAMA torpedoed in 049° 35' N. 019° 13' W. at 2235/23 out of convoy. No further signal from CHAMA received. 0800 (ends). (SNAPDRAGON, 1101/24, to C.in C. W.A.) Had left O.G.56. (D.S. 567).
MALANCHA	Ref. SSSS message my 1825/23 undamaged, proceeding. (MALANCHA, 1115/24, to Admty.).
ANDALUSIAN (torpedoed 17/3)	Ref. Trade Div. Memo 4/9/1939. (1) British ship ANDALUSIAN (2) Ellerman Papayanni lines (3) 2115 G.M.T./17 15.50 N. 20.42 W. (4) (5) and (6) unknown (7) ship sunk (8) 7 officers 16 crew rescued by Portuguese ship NYASA. 4 officers and 15 crew missing in ship's boat. (9) unknown (10) torpedo (11)full sets of C.B's and confidential papers dumped. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1130/24, to Admty.). Torpedoed in 15° 48' N. 20° 42' W. No survivors. (N.A. Lisbon 2004/24).
AGNETE MAERSK.	S S S S de AFNETE MAERSK 49° N. 21° 55' W. shelled by submarine. (Lands End Radio, 1430/24) Had left Convoy O.C.56. (D.S. 567).
THORSHAVET	Norwegian tanker 11,015 tons. Following has been read. SSSS THORSHAVET 51.14 N., 21.48 W. Submarine sighted. (Lyness, 1810/24) THORSHAVET was straggler from convoy H.X.114.
MEMNON (torpedoed 11/3)	22 survivors from MEMNON landed near Dakar p.m./21. Vessel torpedoed at 1410/11 in 20° 30' N. 21° 00' W. by German Submarine. Further report from Governor Gambia states lifeboat containing 41 survivors from same vessel passed Dakar proceeding Bathurst 23/3. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1837N/24, to Admty.). MEMNON bound independently from Port Pirie for Avonmouth and Swansea (D.S. 568). Following survivors landed at Dakar. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1901/24). Captain and 8 other survivors landed from MEMNON at Dakar. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1859/24, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.3.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0308. D/F at 0808 D.S.T. Italian U/B in 46° N. 6° W. unrelisble fix, homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 0858/24).

U/B and unidentified ship off Iceland, 22/3. Your 2301/22. (1) Was W/T defective or jammed by outside station? (2) Did A/C take any offensive action? (3) Did ship resemble Norwegian OLAF FOSTENES which was in this vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1017/24 to F.O.I.C. Iceland). Reply: 2157/25.

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1250/24) (F.O.S., 1516/24 to S/M's Area A.).

1910. Admty. message AF position 61° 14' N: 21° 48' W. at 1810/24 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2012/24).

W. of 35° W. Unlikely that transmission originated from U/B (See America and W. Indies).

Submarines Attacked.

By VISENDA 23/3. S.O.N.P.T.'s 1840/23. Bubbles last seen rising from observed position 062° 22' N. 017° 11' W. at 1330 yesterday.
(VISENDA, 0700/24, to LORD MIDDLETON)
W.R. Note: Passed to Admty. & R.A.N.F. for information - no trace of former quoted.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy battle cruisers.

Air R/C today reported no major units in St. Nazaire, Lorient or Rade d'Abri at Brest, but effective R/C of the Biscay ports has not been possible since the date when it is believed the battle cruisers entered one of them.

RODNEY left Reykjavik at 1131 today and is proceeding with despatch to the focal point of trade off Newfoundland in case the enemy are making for this point.

Adty. 2249/25 contains instructions, for the operations of Force H. It is estimated that 7 or 8 Italian S/M's are patrolling in the Bay of Biscay.

E.boat activity.

E.boat activity off the East coast commenced at 2100/24. (No anti-E.boat daylight air patrol had been possible owing to the weather). By 2200 one group was apparently operating N.E. of Yarmouth and another off Cromer. At 2250 D.16 in WORCESTER covering Convoy F.N.41 sighted E.boats who fired torpedoes. E.boats were reported by destroyers with F.N.41 and F.S.44 up to 0333 today. No casualties to H.M. ships or convoys are reported.

S.S. WILLIAM CASH in Convoy F.N.41 claims to have damaged an E.boat off Sheringham buoy. Aircraft search is to be carried out.

Tanker sunk.

It is reported that on 20/3 STURGEON torpedoed and probably sank a tanker, possibly Norwegian TALBOT BOOTH, off Obrestad.

British Air Activity.

All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled on account of weather. Ships were attacked today off the Frisian Is.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.3.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS BEAVERBRAE was bombed and damaged in the N.W. Approaches this morning.

Bombs or mines which did not explode were reported by HASTINGS this afternoon to have been dropped east of Aldeburgh near 54 Buoy.

SS ESCAUT was attacked this afternoon and drove ashore near Bude.

Three M.E. 109's attacked the Dungeness M.L. patrol about 1900 today. Slight damage, not affecting seaworthiness was caused to M.L. 139.

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations GX.	The minelaying operation off Brest Approaches originally intended for night 25/26 was today postponed 24 hours on account of weather. C.in C. Bomber Command was unable to assist the operation tonight by a diversionary bombing of Brest.
S.N.4.	RAM with 4 minelayers escorted by 4 destroyers sailed from Port Z.A. at 1025 today to carry out operation S.N.4. GALATEA, AURORA and CURACOA left Scapa, this morning to escort.
Z.M.E.25.	Minelaying in St. Georges Channel was cancelled today on account of fog.
F.D.32.	CACHALOT should have completed this operation yesterday or today, before proceeding on patrol.
	Fishing motor boat ALASKAN was sunk by mine today in 54° 48' 48" N., 1° 7'W. (Off Hartlepool).
	Mines were detonated in the Thames Approaches today. A mine was cut off Falmouth.

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DI RY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Raider reported.

S.S. BRITANNIA reported being shelled by a warship raider in 7° 24'N., 24° 34'W., (about 700 miles West of Freetown) at 0855 N., today. At this time, REPULSE and FURIOUS with FOXHOUND and DUNCAN were fuelling at Freetown. REPULSE left at 1700/25 to join S.L.69 at 1100/26. FURIOUS and destroyers are to leave at 0700/26 to join REPULSE at 0900/27. MAURITIUS was in 10° 20'N., 22° 12'W., at 1600N/24 proceeding towards Freetown and was ordered to investigate the raider report. BULOLO has been ordered to join S.L.69 until the arrival of REPULSE.

BRITANNIA made an amplifying message which was received by MAURITIUS at 0920N/25, reporting that she was being chased and gunned by a merchant ship raider in 7° 24' N., 24° 3' W., and was steering north at 15 knots.

Mediterranean.

It is believed that S.S. BJONNESS has been sunk by enemy action last night whilst in convoy off the south coast of Crete.

Brazilian TAUBETE attacked.

C.in C. Med. reports that Brazilian S.S. TAUBETE was attacked on 22/3 by a German aircraft, while proceeding independently from Cyprus to Alexandria Each attempt to abandon ship was frustrated by machine gun fire. One man was killed and 14 wounded.

4 Blenheims bombed and machine gunned Scarpanto and Calato Aerodromes early today, damaging enemy aircraft. A 7000 ton merchant vessel was hit off Astropalia Island.

Tripoli was bombed last night by 3 Wellingtons.

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Lanlash Examination Service.

Lamlash examination service will come into operation on 31/3. Request all necessary authorities be informed that all ships for Ayr Treen Irvine and Ardrossan hitherto sent to Rothesay for examination should be sent to Brodick Bay as from 31/3.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1314/25).

South Greenland proposed D/F Station.

The establishment of an H/F D/F station near Julianehaab in South Greenland is under consideration to obtain bearings in a southerly direction. Canadian and U.S.Governments are being consulted.

2. Request your early remarks on the possibility of station being erected and manned from Canadian resources should the U.S. approve this course. It is proposed communication should be by existing W/T service to Belle Isle.
(V.C.N.S. 2021/25).

Movements.

KELLY KASHMIR.

Arrived 0722.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 0903/25 and 1009/25).

RODNEY.

RODNEY, COSSACK, MAORI, ZULU sailed in accordance with C.in C. H.F. 0035/24.
(F.O.Iceland, 1131/25).

PRINCE OF WALES.

Scapa arrivals PRINCE OF WALES, QUANTOCK, LIDDESDALE, AVON VALE.
(A.C.O.S. 1909/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrols.

O.9. Recognition signals.

My 1919 (? 24). Dutch submarine O.9 has not acknowledged signal giving her new recognition signal. She is being ordered to obtain new minor warship signal from her escort but it is uncertain if she will do so. She may therefore use either wrong signal correct grenade and flare or correct minor warship signal.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 0015/25).

CACHALOT, SUNFISH, SOKOL, SEALION, UNDAUNTED, H.31, H.32, H.33, H.34, H.44, H.50, O.9, O.10.

Movements.
(F.O.S. 1137/25, 1138/25, 1319/25, 1842/25).
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1224/25, 1702/25).
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1306/25).
(S.5. 1610/25).

VORTIGERN, E/Boat sighted.

1 E/Boat bearing 057°. Cromer 30 miles.
(VORTIGERN 0023/25).
My 0023. Heard hydrophone effect.
Saw smoke screen after illumination.
Enemy retired to eastward.
(VORTIGERN, 0031/25).

WILLIAM CASH. Engagement with E/Boat.

(British 1186 tons). Of F.N.Convoy 41, reports having opened fire on E/Boat 2 miles north of Sheringham Light Buoy. 3 bursts were said to have hit at 200 feet range and the E/Boat last seen apparently stopped.
(VANESSA, 1000/25).
Search by aircraft will be made. Ships and vessels in this area are to be warned to keep a lookout.
(C.in C. Nore, 1237/25).

East Coast anti-E/Boat Patrol.

2 A/P's, normally North of 5 buoy will remain westward of Channels tonight until F.N. has passed and then patrol vicinity of 7 buoy.
(C.in C. Nore, 1025/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

FARADAY.

(Cable ship) Is to be sailed from U.K. in convoy as arranged by C.in C. W.A. She will call at Freetown, Capetown, Mombasa, and Suez to discharge stocks of cable for Cable and Wireless.

2. As cargo is irreplaceable C.in C. W.A. is requested to arrange following additional precautions.

(i) One A.A. destroyer stationed close to her when in areas where aircraft attack is possible.

(ii) Two corvettes to escort her as far as Freetown.
(B.S.D. 1306/25).

Western Channel Patrol.

Capt: (D) Plymouth R/V with Capt: (D) 5 at 2000 today is cancelled. KELVIN and JACKAL are to patrol tonight between longitude of Scilly Isles and The Lizard and arrive Plymouth at 0730/26.

Object of patrol is to cover shipping proceeding from Falmouth to Bristol Channel.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1313/25).

STURGEON attack on M/V. 20/3.

In mist and rain on 20/3 STURGEON attacked southbound freighter at 1529 at long range in 230° Obrestad Light 7 miles. Explosions followed after 8 minutes. Twenty minutes later in improved visibility sighted tanker with only after part showing above water and blowing off steam. Tanker was on firing course of torpedoes.
Possibly identified as Norwegian No.22 TALBOT BOOTH.
(S.6. 1410/25 to F.O.S.)

DRAUG nearly fired on.

GUILLEMOT reports that Norwegian Destroyer DRAUG on patrol approached F.N.41, at high speed during E/Boat attack and was nearly fired on.
(VERSATILE, 1601/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

2 M/V's bombed.

On 24/3. One Blenheim attacked and sank a small ship marked with a white swastika at 52° 5'N., 4° 12'E. Another Blenheim attacked one small M/V in 53° 13'N., 3° 8'E. Results not seen.
(H.Q.B.C. 0012/25).

Patrols.

TROST, STAB, BERT expected to take off 1100. FAIR in operation now.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0850/25).
Air patrol HORNLI in operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1256/25).

Brest. Proposed diversionary Air Attack.

Your 98 25/3. Your 1239/24. Do not count on my assistance tonight. If present weather holds, air operations in Brest area will not be possible.
(C.in C. Bomber Command, 0950/25 to C.in C. Plymouth).

Escort Ships. Kites with Flares.

Kites carrying flares may be flown by escort ships at night. Escorts will be informed when night air escort may be expected. On being informed, escort ships are not to fly kites until they have told air escort by R/T.
(C.in C. W.A. 1047/25).

Air Searches.

If weather is suitable aircraft will carry out a U/Boat search tomorrow in sector radius 300 miles from Tory Island between bearings 260° and 280° leaving Tory Island 0800 and returning 1500. Fuel permitting RIPLEY and SAINT FRANCIS should endeavour to pass this sector at appropriate time co-operating with aircraft.
(C.in C. W.A. 1708/25).
Admrialty, 1712/25. Whitley aircraft taking off from Wick 2000. E.T.A. position about 2200. Searching for 4 hours, then returning Wick.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1916/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Green Corridors.

X 704 25/3. Cancel my X.78 21/3. New Directional Instruction for Green Corridors centred on Mablethorpe and Filey.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1500/25).

Anti-Invasion Patrols.

Your A.617 of 22/3 has been considered in conjunction with Bomber Command signal Ops. 44 22/3. Decision is that instructions contained in my X.60 15/3 must stand. Responsibilities of Air Ministry in final sentence to be regarded as including consideration of any special features which might affect reversion 107 and 114 Squadrons in light of situation at the time.
(Air Ministry 1755/25 to A.O.C. C.C.)

Ships Bombed.

1. Night 24/25. All operations cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. Day 25/3. One Aircraft attacked a convoy of 18 ships at 55° 45'N., 4° 50'E., bombed two large ships about 4-5000 tons each and machine gunned one ship from sea level. Two bursts were observed and were near misses. Another aircraft attacked a motor vessel. Another aircraft attacked a stationary Flak ship in 53° 28'N., 5° 40'E. Results not observed but probable direct hit scored. Another aircraft attacked what was thought to be a naval patrol vessel at 53° 36'N., 6° 32'E.
(H.Q.B.C., 2344/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

BEAVERBRAE. (British 9956 tons) bombed.	Proceed to assist BEAVERBRAE bombed in 60° 38'N., 08° 44'W., at 0900/25. Survivors are in 4 life boats. (C.in C. W.A. 1016/25 to 10th A/S Group). BEAVERBRAE on fire. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1024/25). Proceed to assist. (R.A.D. H.F. 1030/25 to TARTAR, GURKA.) Lifeboats and crew 4 miles E.N.E. ship drifting S.E. (Liverpool, 1113/25). Proceed with all despatch to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1201/25 to BRIGAND) R.A.(D) H.F.'s 1030. 1 Whitley aircraft E.T.A. position 1330, relieved by second Whitley about 1800. Call signs. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1236/25 to TARTAR, GURKA). A/S Trawler WINDERMERE has been sailed to escort BRIGAND. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1425/25). Sighted BRIGAND. (WINDERMERE 1555/25). (?Crews of) all 4 boats now on board. BEAVERBRAE still afloat in 060° 13'N., 009° 12'W. Consider ship can be (?salved). (From (?) 1730/25 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Convoy F.N.Even.	One aeroplane shadowing convoy AGENT Position TLCE 0751, in 52° 7'N., 1° 51'E (HASTINGS 1455/25).
BENVORLICH (Bombed 19/3).	Clyde arrival LAMELEK with 20 survivors from BENVORLICH. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1601/25).
Convoy F.S.Even.	One aeroplane height less than 1,000 feet convoy AGENT in 52° 19'N., 1° 59'E. (HASTINGS, 1634/25). My 1634. Torpedo Bomber. Course 210. (HASTINGS, 1636 /25).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ESCAUT
Bombed.

(Dutch 347 tons). From Ayr to Parcrew 7, 2 gunners. Machine gunned and bombed by enemy aircraft at 1620/25 eight miles from shore. Engine room flooded and drove ashore Southern end of Cleave Strand near Bude. Two lifeboats known to be adrift about 8 miles West of Desert Point, painted grey water logged. 1 gunner wounded in leg. 1 of crew seriously ill. All crew landed safely.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2150/25).

M/L
Patrol
and
Dungeness
bombed.
M.L.139
damaged.

At about 1900 today Dungeness M.L. Patrol was attacked by three M.E.109s. One small bomb struck Wheel House of M.L.139 causing slight damage not affecting seaworthiness and wounding Helmsman. Casualty landed Dover where temporary repairs being effected. Three other bombs fell on beach at Dungeness.
(V.A.Dover, 2209/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.3.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

INTREPID ICARUS IMPULSIVE. (BS.53.).	Arrived 0734. (C. in C. Plymouth 0915/25.).
S.N.4.	Scapa departure 0859 GALATEA and AURORA 0932 CURACOA. (A.C.O.S. 0955/25.). Departure Port ZA R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, CASTLETON, CHARLESTON, St. MARYS, LANCASTER, to carry out S.N.4. (TRELAWNEY 1025/25.).
Thames Estuary.	Two S.A. Mines detonated as follows at 0352/25. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1102/25.).
Western Channel Clearance Sweep.	My 1941/24. Holiday cleared. No mines out. (S.O. 1st. M/S.F.1139/25.).
Operation G.X.	V.C.N.S.1205/25 See Operations Volume. Your 1646/24. ABDIEL is to embark mines at Milford Haven and should be sailed accordingly. Decision as to position of lay and subsequent movements will be signalled later. (V.C.N.S. 1209/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.). Operation G X is postponed 24 hours on ac count of weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 1237/25).
Z.M.E.25.	C. in C. Plymouth's 1701/23. Z.M.E.25 will not be carried out today on account of fog. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1253/25.). Your 1253/25. Operation is to be carried out night of 26/27. (C. in C. Plymouth 1653/25.).
ALASKAN.	(Fishing motor boat) Sunk by mine explosion in 54° 48' 48" N., 01° 07' W. Crew rescued by fishing motor boat SUNRAY and landed at Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1455/25.).
Off Harwich.	LEDA reports. At 1904/23 bearing red 140° distant 1.5 miles, heavy explosion and column of white spray. Ship in 51° 52.7' N., 01° 34.9' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1507/25.).

/One.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.3.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Off Harwich. One magnetic mine detonated in 51° 47' N., 01° 18.1' E at 0950. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1551/25.).

Off Southwold. My 1634. Bombs or mines which did not explode dropped in approximate position 150° 5 cables 54 F buoy. (HASTINGS 1650/25.).

Operation G.X. C. in C. Plymouth 2020/25. see Operations Volume.

G.W. Operation G.W. sailing date postponed. Date for ships to assemble at Falmouth will be signalled later. (C. in C. Plymouth 2023/25.).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. One E boat bearing 000° Cromer 10 miles. (MEYNELL 0229/25.).
Two E Boats in sight. Mayposition 005 Cromer 11. (MEYNELL 0333/25.).
Following is summary of E boat activity last night 24/25. No anti-E-Boat daylight air patrol possible owing to weather.
Activity started at 2100. By 2200 one group apparently operating N.E. of Yarmouth and another off Cromer.
At 2250 D 16 in WORCESTER covering F.N.41, sighted E boats near M buoy who fired torpedoes. D.16 claims 2 hits on E Boat.
At 0023/25 VORTIGERN with F.S.44 reported H.E. at 56A Buoy and sighted smoke screen.
At 0230 MEYNELL with F.N.41 reported E boat near Sheringham Buoy. At 0252 QUORN with F.S.44 reported H.E. at Hearty Knoll Buoy.
At 0333 MEYNELL reported 2 E boats 11 miles north of Cromer. No casualties to H.M. ships or convoys reported.(C. in C. Nore 1238/25.).

/TAIPING.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

TAIPING TARONGA.	My 1123/13. TAIPING returned Oslo 22nd March. TARONGA may leave March 27th. (F.O.C.N.P. 1109/25.).
Kiel. R/C on 24/3.	Southern portion only of Kiel covered by air reconnaissance 24/3 March. HIPPER Class Cruiser still alongside. LEIPZIG has left dry dock but may be present elsewhere in harbour. Berth occupied by LUTZOW on 18/3 not covered. (D.D.I.C. 1225/25.).
St. Nazaire Lorient Brest.	Air reconnaissance reports no major units in St. Nazaire, L'Orient or Rade Abri at Brest, 25/3. (D.D.I.C. 1706/25.). A/C A/59 reports:- At 1059 crossed French coast at Pleubian set course to Morvbian Bay. At 1128 over Morvbian Bay at 2000 ft. No shipping seen. Searched creeks down coast to St. Nazaire. At 1140 at Castelli Pt. took photos of gun positions and pillboxes from 250 ft. At 1144 over Le Cruisic took photos of gun positions from 600 ft. appeared deserted. At 1150 outside St. Nazaire harbour. In the harbour were sighted 1 cargo vessel 5/6000 tons heavily camouflaged in black and white, 1 smaller cargo vessel about 2000 tons and 9 small vessels about 2000 tons. (Chatham 1715/25 to H.Q.C.C.).
German Ship.	Your 1808/25. (See North Atlantic) Unit was probably to Northward of Scotland. (D.D.I.C. 2022/25.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Firing by M/V's at Starshell.

During a recent encounter between E/Boats and destroyers forming additional cover to a convoy, ships in convoy observed to open fire on Starshell also at destroyer firing starshell. Considered that unless the enemy , whether A/C or E/B, can be definitely seen, promiscuous firing of this description is only a waste of ammunition and hampers destroyers in driving off attack. Request N.C.S.O's may impress upon masters undesirability of opening fire at random.
(C.in C. Nore, 1156/25).

E.C.Convoys. in Pentland Firth.

Suggest that in order to avoid delays to Merchant shipping E.C.Convoys should when necessary proceed through the Pentland Firth by night. Alternatives are to waste time in Methil Roads, Moray Firth, or proceed by Fair Island Channel, all of which involve delay in arrival and appear undesirable.
(C.in C. Nore, 1620/25 to C.in C. Rosyth)

Dispersal of S.L.68.

My 1507/21. Convoy S.L.68 left Sierra Leone on 13/3 and was dispersed in position 21° 10'N.42°40'W. on 21/3. Broadcast instructions have now been issued for these ships to proceed to Halifax if bunkers permit. There are 51 ships of which 26 are coal burners which may each require up to 500 tons at Halifax. Can this be supplied without undue delay? Other ships comprise 19 Diesel vessels (maximum requirements). Can this also be met.?
(D.T.D. 1925/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Military Convoys.

W.S.7.

REINA DEL PACIFIC
Sailed Clyde portion W.S.7. except / escorted by Commodore C.S.18 in EDINBURGH, REVENGE, SOMALI, MATABELE, MASHONA, LEGION, BROADWATER, PIORUN.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0043/25 to Admty).
My 0043/25. STRATHAIRD has been in collision and has returned to Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0805/25, P.S.T.O. Clyde, 0830/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military
Convoys.

102 R.M. Bde., and L.C. S.S. KENYA, SOBIESKI.	Admiralty 1727/19/2. Decided that Transports and Personnel referred to and held at short notice are to be released subject to following arrangements. (D.O.D.(H) 1737/25 to F.O.I.C's Greenock Glasgow etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

DASHWOOD (Grounded 21/3).	Departures H.M. A/S trawler SWORD DANCE escorting Tugs KENIA and LADY BRASSEY to attempt to refloat of DASHWOOD (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0752/25). DASHWOOD refloated proceeding Southend. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1152/25).
MARAUDER.	(Tug) In collision with S.S. EMPIRE SONG last night. Tug out of action. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1027/25). Damage as follows. Repairs cannot be carried out locally. Engines are all right also propellors. Ship will require escort to assist steering. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1217/25).
Suspected shipwrecked crew.	At 0439/25 in 17° 21'N., 26° 9'W. HIGHLAND PRINCESS reports lights observed. Suspected ship-wrecked crew. (Portishead Radio 1930/25).
Unknown Ship ashore off Cromer.	Following intercept from Humber Radio, begins. AHAMO to ACAVUS. Ashore off Cromer. Ends. (F.O. Humber, 2244/25).
KENTWOOD.	(British 2180 Tons). Following received by Humber Radio at 2203 from KENTWOOD. (Have?) run ashore Cromer. Request tug. (F.O.Humber, 2343/25).
JOAN MARGARET.	(Drifter 25 tons). Sunk by enemy action 20/3. 2 killed, 3 missing, 1 wounded. Details unknown. (D.S. 567).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

Crew of A/C Rescued by Spanish ship.

Your 1837/19. Crew were transferred to Las Palmas at 2400/24 on board Spanish vessel XAUEN.
(Consul Teneriffe. 0956/25 to N.A. Madrid).

PANDORA to escort CAIRNDALE (oiler)

Admty. 1751/24 and 2227/24 PANDORA is available 29/3. Propose to sail her to act as protection to CAIRNDALE while at R/V "PEDESTAL". In event of an attack by raider I consider PANDORA would have good chance of defence vide para 8 S.O. Force H 0920/24. A submarine will still be available for HG and OG convoys.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1200/25, to Admty.) See also 1748/25.

Enemy unit.

D/F Bearing Cupar 210° 2nd Class at 0920 G.M.T. /25 indicates probable enemy surface craft.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1243/25, to N.A. stn.)
Middle Hill reports at 1618 German ship? was bearing 356°. 2nd Class.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1808/25, to N.A. Stn.)
My 1808. Unit was probably to northwest of Scotland.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2302/25 to N.A. Stn.)

ARK ROYAL defect

ARK ROYAL reports defect. Material for repair on board estimated time to complete 12 days. Boiler can be steamed until superheater carrier rail carries away.
(S.O. Force H, 1410/25 to Admty.)

CAIRNDALE (to fuel Force H)

Admty. 1751/24. Intend sailing CAIRNDALE P.M./26 escorted by two Corvettes until 2100/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1748/25 to Admty.)

Force H

Your 1931/24. Policy re operation of Force H in vicinity of convoy routes between latitude of Ushent and Lisbon.
(1st S.L. 2249/25 to S.O. Force H) (See operations Volume)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

TACOMA (German)	(Interned at Montevideo after her association with GRAF SPEE). Reported to have received instructions from here owners to be ready for sea by May. (D.S. 567).
MAURITIUS	Was further to eastward than thought and has seen nothing. Unlikely that contact will now be made. Has had defect in circulation. Have ordered her to Freetown. Arrives 26/3. (C in C S.A. 0009N/25 to Admty.)
BRITANNIA. Raider Report.	Following has been read:- RRRR 7 24 N 24 34 W, BRITANNIA gunned. (Freetown W/T 0855N/25) (D.D.I.C. 1159/25 to C in C H.F. S.A. etc. and 1206/25 to G.B.M.S. Areas 6A, 7,9, and 1)
REYNELLA	Overdue shipping cancel my 1150/24, REYNELLA delayed Lobito now due Capetown M 27/3. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1007/25)
Dispositions.	BRITANNIA Raider Report. REPULSE FURIOUS FOXHOUND DUNCAN at Freetown fuelling. REPULSE will leave Freetown P.M./25 to join S.L. 69. FURIOUS and Destroyers leave A.M./26 to join REPULSE. MAURITIUS in 010° 20' N 022° 12' W at 1600N/24 then towards Freetown, ordered to investigate Raider Report. BULOLO ordered to join Convoy until arrival of REPULSE. (C in C S.A. 1047N/25, to Admty.) My 1047/25 REPULSE sailed 1700/25 and will join Convoy 1100/26 FURIOUS and destroyers sail 0700/26 and join convoy 0900/27. NARKUNDA sailed 1730/25 and will join Convo 0700/27 being given cover by REPULSE, FURIO and Air on passage. (C in C S.A. 1259N/25 to Admty). My 1047/25 Intend REPULSE FURIOUS and destroyers shall remain in company with Convoy S L 69 as long as REPULSE endurance permits then return to Freetown to fuel and proceed in accordance with your 1330/23. REPULSE s

should leave.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Dispositions (contd.)	REPULSE should leave convoy 30/3. MAURITIUS to join convoy by this date must leave raider search not later than p.m./26 to fuel Bathurst. After joining she can stay with convoy until about 4/4 in 029° N. if proceeding Scapa or till 9/4 in 039° N. if proceeding Gibraltar. Intend MAURITIUS shall proceed to join convoy as stated unless other escort is provided. (C.in C. S.A., 1947N/25, to Admty.).
BIRMINGHAM CHRISTIAN HUYGENS	F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0850Z/24. BIRMINGHAM should overtake CHRISTIAN HUYGENS as soon as practicable and remain with her until arrival at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1137/25 to C.in C. S.A.). N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0850/24. After overtaking CHRISTIAN HUYGENS you are to remain in company and escort until arrival Freetown or relief by another ship, see my 2141/19 and 1947/21. (C.in C. S.A., 1139N/25, to BIRMINGHAM).
HAWKINS	My 1142/10. HAWKINS will now arrive Durban 4/4. Intend her to dock to change propellers and carry out seven days self refit. (C.in C. E.I., 1206Z/25, to N.O.I.C's Simonstown, Durban).
Italian ships, Rio de Janeiro.	Reported to be storing for overseas voyage. No assessment given to report. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2206Z/25 to Admty.).
ILLUSTRIOUS	To be docked at Durban for examination of underwater fittings and report as to any castings, fittings, etc., which will require replacement during refit in America. (D.O.D.(F) 2253/25, to C.in C. S.A.).
SEVERN's "Q" report 22/3.	My 1041/24. Consider it likely that suspicious ship sighted by SEVERN in position 13° N. 27°W. at 1152/22 was SACRAMENTO VALLEY. Further report will be made when ship arrives Freetown. (C.in C. S.A., 2331/25 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

WAIMARA (24/3).	My 1111/24. WAIMARA refloated and arrived Alexandria. Steering gear damaged. Further signal will be made. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1249/25).
MARIE MAESK. (damaged in air attack).	Your 2007/22. As soon as space is available MARIE MAESK cargo should be transferred using other oiler pumps. Report if this can be done. Report quantity of coal cargo, remaining. (C.in C. Med., 1151/25 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).
M.C.9.	Operation completed. Report. MARIE MAERSK (A.N.21) damaged by bombs; NIKOLAS EMBIRIKOS sunk; SOLHEIM bombed and abandoned. (C.in C. Med., 1321/25). Original in Lion Copy only.
Brazilian S.S. TAUBATE bombed.	Attacked on 22/3 by a German A/C while on independent passage from Cyprus to Alexandria, about 100 miles N.E. of Alexandria. Attack lasted 1½ hours. Six bombs dropped and a near miss damaged steering gear. TAUBATE stopped immediatly attack started and tried to abandon ship but each attempt was frustrated by M.G. fire. One man kille 14 wounded. One boat eventually got away. Later when A/C departed ship reboarded by crew and brought into Alexandria. Flying boat sent out but arrived after enemy had left. (C.in C. Med., 1327/25 to Admty).
Escort of Malta Hurricanes.	Your X.472 23/3. Am not clear as to purpose of escorting Sunderlands. Hurricanes allotted Malta from Egypt normally proceed in company of escorting land plane only. Suggest in this case each formation of 6 Hurrica is escorted by 2 Fulmars to guard agains W/T failure. Suggest you reconsider decision to use Sunderlands especially in view of danger proceeding Malta in Daylight. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1523/25 to Air Ministry.)

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Raid.	Combined service report Malta up to 1600 hours 25/3. 1630 hours 24/3. High level bombing attack Grand Harbour by 10 JU.88's with escort of 20 ME.109's. No service casualties or damage. Damage to civilian property slight. (H.Q. R.A.F. 1600/25), (Malta).
BJONNESS Probably sunk.	Most probable but not yet confirmed that BJONNESS has been sunk by enemy during night whilst in convoy off south coast of Crete (?). Master and crew saved. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1745/25, to Admty). (N.T. in Lloyds, D.S.569).
ISIS ENCOUNTER.	Enquiring their whereabouts and when they may be expected at Suez. Badly needed in Mediterranean. (C.in C. Med., 1883/25 to C.in C. S.A.)
Fleet Movements.	Arrival 24/3 C.in C. Med. in WARSPITE FORMIDABLE BARHAM VALIANT JERVIS JUNO JANUS JAGUAR NUBIAN MOHAWK STUART (DEFENDER) HERO. Arrival 25/3 BONAVENTURE HOTSPUR GREYHOUND GRIFFIN HAVOCK. Departure 25/3 ROVER DEFENDER, French M/L PLUTAN, JAGUAR FIONA APHIS CARLISLE BRECONSHIRE. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1852/25 to Admty).
Submarines.	Proposed reinforcements. (Head of M., 2250/25 to C.in C. Med.) See Med. Volume.
ATLAS LIVORNO.	Arrival German Steamers ATLAS and LIVORNO. (Valencia T.H.I. 2340/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shipping for Service Needs.

Owing to rapid changes in Military situation additional shipping now necessary for (a) petrol (b) personnel for Mogadiscio. Suggestions.
(S.O.Force W., 0556Z/25 to C.in C. E.I).

Fuelling methods employed by German Raiders.

Admty. 1441Z/22. Following information (COBURG and KITTY BROVIG) supplements my 0439Z/9.
(CANBERRA, 0725Z/25 to C.in C. E.I).

CHARLES L.D.

My 1501 (N.T. in W.R.) Crew only undertook to work ship as far as Mauritius. Consider almost certainly 3 officers and some men would declare for De Gaulle if ship was seized. (cargo)
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0831Z/25, to Admty)

Vizagapatam.

My 0632/18. Examination service and P.W.S.S. commenced operating 25/3.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0950Z/25).

ISIS, ENCOUNTER.

Sailed in accordance with C.in C.E.I. 1144Z/12. E.T.A. Kilindini 1000 G.M.T. /29.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1052Z/25).

COLOMBO CALEDON.

Present intention is that COLOMBO will escort Bombay portion B.N.24 to Aden, and will then join Red Sea Force in place of CALEDON. CALEDON is to be sailed to Colombo for refit on arrival COLOMBO at Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 1156Z/25 to S.N.O. Red Sea, COLOMBO).

Orders for ANTENOR.

On arrival Aden ANTENOR is to complete with fuel and then proceed to Bombay at 15 knots. To boiler clean on arrival at Bombay.
(C.in C. E.I. 1158Z/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

SHROPSHIRE. Your 1344Z/18. (Re aircraft to be transferred to SHROPSHIRE). Confirmed. (D.N.A.D. 1302/25 to C.in C. E.I.)

KETTY BROVIG Raider R/V. CANBERRA reports that examination of KETTY BROVIG documents show that her four R/Vs with other ships between 12/2 and 4/3 all took place in area East Saya De Malha and Nazareuh Bank, Farewell message between KETTY BROVIG and raider on 28/2 implied that one of them, latter possibly, was about to leave for Germany. (C.in C. E.I., 1306/25 to A.C.N.B.)

CANBERRA, SHROPSHIRE, AUSTRALIA. Proposals for. (A.C.N.B. 1324/25). (See Australia.)

Reunion. Re. (Hd. of M., 1607/25 to C.in C.E.I) (See Operations Volume).

Swordfish flight. My 0700/26/2 and your 0700/24/3 (Neither received in Admty) Swordfish flight is to be sent to Suez first opportunity and not Port Sudan. Report your intentions regarding this movements. (C.in C. E.I. 1628Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Mombasa).

Punitive landing, Shugra, CHAKDINA, KANDAHAR. Owing to contravention by Fadhli Sultan of existing treaties, Governor Aden on instructions from S. of S. for Colonies wished to take active steps against Sultan on 23/3 and asked for H.M. Ship to convey and land 150 Government guards at Shugra. CHAKDINA and KANDAHAR were employed for this duty, the latter covering the landing. No opposition or gunfire, but Sultan's Palace was blown up at request of Governor, Aden, by naval demolition party. The Sultan escaped.
(C.in C. E.I. 1736/25 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25. 3. 1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China.	Your 1627/22. Arrangement regarding Dutch tankers. (C. in C. China, 0229/25, to Admty.).
Japanese tankers.	Your 1216/12. C. in C. N. E.I., reports he cannot object formally to these 4 tankers visiting Taracan. To prevent their concentrating in or immediately outside N.E.I. territory he has arranged with B.P.M. that each ship will be fuelled as quickly as possible but that "owing to technical reasons" a week will have to elapse between arrival of each tanker. Consideration also being given by Dutch to using submarines to investigate in vicinity if circumstances permit. (C. in C. China, 0729Z/25, to Admty.).
Sale of Ammunition & Chinese.	Your 1527Z/21, which is being passed to Admiralty. Arrangements approved generally. Co-operation of Gov., of Burma is being sought. Ammunition and explosives to be offered for sale to Chinese Gov., in preference to being jettisoned provided diplomatic mission see no objection. (C. in C. China, 0733Z/25, to FALCON.).
Indo-China Rubber Exports to Japan.	My 0319Z/. 25/2 and Tokyo 402 9/3 to F.O. I am informed by Admiral Decoux that Gov. of Indo China have been compelled, on orders from Vichy, to accede to a Japanese demand for delivery of 35,000 tons of rubber during 1941. Remarks and suggestions. (C. in C. China, 1047/25, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Service Personnel in RASPUTNA A.M.C.

Your 1931/17. Intend to embark 10 officers and 100 other ranks in RAJPUTANA escorting H.X.117. Only other escort available is TRIBUNE but some distant cover will be given by capital ships outward bound and escorting other homeward bound convoys.
(F.O.3.B.S. 1129/25 to Admty).

ELK
HUSKY
VISON.

Regret circumstances compel me to request the return of ELK, HUSKY and VISON. Request vessels may be sailed so as to arrive Halifax early May.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1206/25 to C.in C.A.W.I.)

MALAYA.

On arrival Trinidad report to Admiral French details of damage and also principal items of defects to be carried out concurrently with repairs.
(D.O.D.(F) 1732/25 to MALAYA).

Australia.

CANBERRA,
SHROPSHIRE,
AUSTRALIA.

Your 1559/19. State of materials for CANBERRA expected to allow deferment of refit for some months. Therefore propose CANBERRA remain under the orders of C.in C. E.I. until SHROPSHIRE refit completed. AUSTRALIA to return to Australia Station after escort U.S.10. Present intention is for AUSTRALIA to relieve CANBERRA on E.I. Station after escort of U.S.11.
(A.C.N.B. 1324Z/25 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ERODONA.
(torpedoed 16/3).

Am now in observed position 062° 19'N., 018° 10'W., with abandoned ERODONA. No sign of tug and unable to get in touch with her by W/T. Weather similar but towing gear ready and intend to make attempt to board.
(Tug ST. MARTIN, 1100/25, to S.O.T.N.P).
My 1100. Now in 62° 30'N., 18° 35'W., have put 1 officer and 4 ratings on board and was towing for 40 minutes when tow parted. Weather deteriorating but will make further attempt.
(VISENDA, 1747/25 to S.O.N.T.)
Trawler reports standing by ERODONA in 062° 19'N., 018° 10'W at 1100/25.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1830/25).

S.L.67.
(attacked 8/3).
HARMODIUS
TIELBANK
HINDPOOL
NARDANA
LAHORE.

Master of BARON CAWDOR, first Clyde arrival from S.L.67, reports that on 8/3 at 0250 Convoy was attacked by enemy submarine in position 20° 50'N. 20° 25'W. When daylight arrived following ships were found to be missing:- HARMODIUS, TIELBANK, HINDPOOL, NARDANA, LAHORE. The latter ship was burning forward. A second attack was made on convoy at 2330/20 in 50° 39'N., 21° 12'W. by submarine or submarines. Convoy dispersed. Master not certain whether ships mentioned in first attack were sunk or not.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1123/25 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

Bay of Biscay.

Indications by D/F that up to 8 Italian U/B's are in Bay of Biscay East of 7° W., between 44° 30'N., and 47° 00'N., mostly between 45° and 46° N., and 2° and 4° West. Three of these have returned from patrol before their normal time. At least two have been at sea for 3 days without moving far.
It is considered that patrols are being maintained.
(D.D.I.C. 1149/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.3.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

(D.D.I.C. 1400/25).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

1636.	D/F at 1636/25. Position of Italian U/Boat was approx. 62° N., 2° 30'W. May be proceeding to a German or Norwegian port. (D.D.I.C. 1712/25).
2023.	D/F at 2023 U/Boat in approx. 048° N., 017° 20'W., probably homeward bound. (F.O.S. 2107/25 to Submarines on Patrol).
U/Boat reported, off Iceland 22/3.	Your 1017/24. (i) Jammed by outside station. (ii) No. (iii) Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 2157/25 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Iceland Faeroes patrol.	In order to strengthen our surface R/C between Iceland and Faeroes a patrol of 2 cruisers, when available, is to be maintained in the northern part of the area occupied by the patrol lines. NIGERIA and FIJI are to leave Scapa tomorrow evening, to establish the patrol. (Fresh orders were given to NIGERIA and FIJI on 28/3).
Western Patrol.	A patrol by vessels of the Northern Patrol is to be established in order to intercept shipping proceeding to French west coast ports.
Development of Shetlands, Faroes and Iceland for use by Naval forces.	See C.in C. H.F. 0159/26.
Western Channel patrol.	KELVIN and JACKAL patrolled last night between the Scilly Is. and Lizard to cover shipping proceeding from Falmouth to the Bristol Channel.
Weather.	Wick harbour was closed at 1210 today.
Enemy battle cruisers.	Air R/C today reports no large enemy warships in the Gironde estuary as far as Bordeaux.
Oiling at sea.	It is intended to oil capital ships, aircraft carriers and cruisers in the open sea. Preliminary trials are to be carried out.
Fishing.	C.in C. Portsmouth states that the orders prohibiting inshore and waterways fishing should be reconsidered, in order to augment the country's food supplies.

/ Number of ships in convoy. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

Number of ships in convoy.

In view of the urgent necessity for a quick turn round of shipping it has become impracticable to retain a limit of 40 ships in a convoy.

Protection of shipping in Plymouth Command.

C.in C. Plymouth reports that the increasing danger of air attack in his Command has led to the necessity of sailing as much shipping as possible in groups. Coastal Command and Fighter Command provide air protection when possible, though there are many occasions when enemy aircraft are able to attack whilst our aircraft are grounded owing to the weather. The number of escort vessels available is insufficient to protect all the groups of shipping, and C.in C. Plymouth asks urgently for better escorts such as Hunts or Wairs.

Destroyers and corvettes from W.A. to reinforce S.A.

C.in C. Western Approaches is to send 2 destroyers and 4 corvettes to join C.in C. South Atlantic, owing to the U-boat attack now developing in the area off Freetown. (For forces to be maintained at Freetown for protection of shipping see Adty. 0113/28 to C.in C. S.A.).

British Air Activity.

Bad weather prevented operations by Bomber Command today, other than attacks on enemy shipping off the Dutch coast.

A Beaufort of Coastal Command torpedoed a 6000 ton merchant ship in convoy off Ymuiden this afternoon.

Owing to bad weather, only two routine patrols were flown by Coastal Command during daylight today. Convoy air escorts in the N.W. Approaches were limited and aircraft had great difficulty in locating convoys.

/ Attempts to carry out R/C ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Atempts to carry out R/C of Brest and P.R.U. sorties there were inconclusive. P.R.U. sorties were made to Lorient and Bordeaux, but the German battle cruisers were not located.

All operations by Coastal Command tonight were cancelled on account of bad weather.

Enemy Air Activity.

F.W. activity today was more extensive than on any day since 28/1.

Skaw A.M.E. Station on Uist Island was attacked today. No damage was caused. Auskerry Lighthouse was bombed today but no damage to the light, or casualties were caused. The living quarters were slightly damaged.

S.S. CAROLINE THORDEN (Finnish)was attacked off Nolso (Thorshavn) today and set on fire. MENESTHEUS was slightly damaged above water by bombs today during minelaying operation S.N.4. south of Faeroes. Fishing vessel LITTLE EMMA was unsuccessfully bombed this afternoon north of the Faeroes. Fishing smack HEINJEVOR was sunk by an enemy aircraft this evening between the Faeroes and Shetlands.

S.S. EMPIRE MERMAID was bombed and damaged this morning in the N.W. Approaches. Tug BRIGAND, standing by S.S. BEAVERBRAE (bombed 25/3) in 60° 1' N. 9° 46' W. was ordered to assist and was herself attacked in 60° 14' N. 9° 31' W. but was not damaged though BEAVERBRAE was hit.

Trawler KINGSWAY was bombed, and damaged 10 miles east of Bell Rock this afternoon.

/ S.S. KNOLL ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. KHOLL (Norwegian) was attacked and damaged today by 2 German planes, 8 miles west of Lundy and was beached.

Cable ship FARADAY carrying irreplaceable cargo was bombed this evening whilst entering Milford Haven. The ship was set on fire and had to be abandoned. At the time, there were 42 merchant vessels, excluding 2 ocean convoys, between Land's End and the Smalls, with only 2 escorts amongst them. There were only 9 escorts immediately available in the Plymouth Command, and these are being worked to capacity.
C.in C. Plymouth reports that the only measures which would have saved FARADAY are more fighter escorts and / or ensuring that enemy aircraft are picked up immediately on their approach.

S.S. SOMALI, in Convoy F.N.42 was bombed and set on fire this evening, off the Tyne. The ship blew up later.

VERSATILE shot down an enemy aircraft this morning off the Hazo.

A.P. Vessels TROUT and CENTAURUS were attacked in Studland Bay this afternoon and the former was damaged.

Mining.

Operation S.N.1.

R.A.F. reported the minelaying operation south of Faeroes completed at 1430/26. MENKSTHEUS was bombed and slightly damaged during the operation.

S.S. YARMOUTH TRADER and AILOTH (Dutch) were damaged by mines this morning off the Humber.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

TICINO mined.

Capt. on Staff, Alexandria reports that the Italian Auxiliary (water carrier) TICINO struck a floating mine at 1444 G.M.T. today in 38° 6' N. 72° 31' E. (off Trapani, Sicily).

Attack on Ships at Suda Bay YORK torpedoed.

An attack on ships at Suda Bay was made today, apparently by one-man submarines. YORK and oiler PERICLES were torpedoed and beached. The latter is capable of steaming and has lost 600 tons of cargo. One boat was captured intact and two were destroyed; six prisoners were captured from a raft.

Air attacks on A.S.22.

Convoy A.S.22 was attacked from the air twice today, once by as many as 30 German bombers.

At 1900 B/26 an enemy convoy of 5 M.V's escorted by 3 destroyers passed Kelibia Roads, Tunis, from southwards at 10 knots. 4 of the vessels were estimated at 15,000 tons each.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. 12462/26 gives a summary of the work of the 9 warships of the R.I.N. lent to him for operations in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf since the outbreak of war.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The same method of authenticating plain language messages as adopted by C.in C. South Atlantic has been brought into force on A. and W.I. Station.

It is reported that at 2100 G.M.T. today S.S. MOORBY in 45° 35' N. 44° 26' W. sighted a volume of black smoke on the horizon, possibly a vessel on fire, and a second vessel near by heading away eastward apparently at high speed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Inshore Fishing Policy.	Reference the country's food supplies the time has come to reconsider the position with regard to inshore and waterways fishing. Existing orders close the foreshores and immobilise all boats in tidal waters. (C in C Portsmouth 1205/26)
Extension of Western Patrol.	A.C.N.S. (F) 1212/26 See Operations Volume.
MANELA.	My 1749/24. MANELA is of such importance to our development in Iceland that special attention should be paid to her security. (A.C.N.S. H. 1517/26.)
C.-in-C H.F. Transfer of Flag.	Intend to transfer my flag from QUEEN ELIZABETH to KING GEORGE V after your arrival at Scapa. Orders. (C in C H.F. 1741/26 to KING GEORGE V.)
Protection of Shipping.	Increasing danger of air attack in this Command has led to the necessity for sailing as much shipping as possible in Groups. 2. These Groups are given a surface escort whenever practicable and such air protection as is possible either by aircraft from Coastal Command or from Fighter Command. 3. There are, however, many occasions when enemy aircraft are able to attack while our Aircraft are grounded due to weather. 4. Further, the number of escorts available is insufficient to protect all the Groups and the armament of trawlers and M.L's is inadequate for dealing with this form of attack. 5. Consider that provision of better surface escorts such as HUNTS or WAIRS is a urgnet necessity. (C in C Plymouth 1759/26 and 2315/26)
Anti-Invasion Orders.	Information is requested whether the action proposed in para 2 of C in C W.A's +2054/13/3 will be implemented since a

similar.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Anti-Invasion Orders.

similar requirement exists for all Home Fleet units who may operate in the areas of any of the Home Commands.
(C in C H.F. 1924/26)

2 Destroyers & 4 Corvettes to re-inforce C in C S.A.

Consequent on the U-boat attack now developing in the area off Freetown it has been decided that a reinforcement of two destroyers and four corvettes shall be sent to join the command of C in C South Atlantic 2. These ships must be taken from the forces at your disposal. Request that you will detail:
(a) two destroyers, who should be fitted for tropical service if possible.
(b) four corvettes fitted for tropical service but not for minesweeping.
(c) Inform Admiralty of the names of ships detailed and the earliest date on which they can be ready to leave U.K.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2022/26 to C in C W.A.)

Iceland.
Proposed inclusion in W.A. Command.

Views of C in C H.F. and A.C.O.S.
(C.in.C.H.F. 0159/26(See Lion Copy only)
A.C.O.S. 2354/26).

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

EXETER.

Scapa arrival 0828 EXETER, 0850 TARTAR, 0935 GURKHA.
(A.C.O.S. 0945/26)

CURACOA.
(Convoy W.N.4).

In view of weather part company with convoy forthwith and return to Scapa.
(F.O.C.D. H.F. 1620/26 to CURACOA)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

As effective aircraft reconnaissance of Biscay Ports has not been possible since the date on which it is believed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU entered one of them, they may have sailed again and be making for the focal point off Newfoundland.
You should reach this focal area with despatch. (1st. S.L. 0058/26 to RODNEY.).

Denmark Strait Patrol.

Intend to arrive Hvalfjord 0700/27. for 48 hours for boiler cleaning and oil.
(F.O.C. 1st. C.S. 0935/26.).

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

Dispositions.

Disposition of submarines in Bay of Biscay is as follows. (F.O.S. 1159/26.).

UNBEATEN.
UNDAUNTED.
UNION.
SEALION.
SOKOL
SUNFISH.
H.33.
H.50.

Movements and Orders.
(F.O.S. 1201/26, 2201/26.).
C.in C. Portsmouth 1303/26, 1907/26, 2103/26).
(C. in C. Plymouth 1353/26.).
(C. in C. Plymouth 1353/26.).
(C. in C. Falmouth 1829/26.).
(C. in C. Falmouth 1829/26.).
(Capt. S.5. 2105/26.).

Western Patrol Extension.

My 1212/26. F.O.C.N.A. 1656/25, and F.O.C.N.P. 0430/26. Request you will fill X1, Z1, A1, A2 in that order of importance.
Either REGISTAN or MARSDALE in southern zone as required by F.O.C.N.A. (A.C.N.S.F. 1324/26.).
I.N.P. Number 3. Patrol areas are to be extended on the same scale to the north westward from area A one, A 2 and Letter/Numbered X one, X 2, Z one and Z 2. X one and X 2 the most northerly. HILARY is to leave A one and take X one repetition X one. CAVINA and CAMITO are to proceed to areas Z one and A one repetition Z one A one respectively. MALVERNIAN to A 2 passing north of 053° N., 021° W. (F.O.C.N.P. 1916/26.).

/Iceland-Faroes...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Iceland-Faroes Passage. 2 Cruisers to patrol. NIGERIA FIJI.

To strengthen our surface reconnaissance between Iceland and Faeroes, intend to maintain, when ships are available, a patrol of 2 cruisers in Northern part of area occupied by T R patrol lines.
(ii) The primary object of the patrol is reconnaissance but S.O. has discretion to leave the area if reliable information of enemy surface unit within striking distance is received.
(iii) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to keep Cruisers on patrol informed of any air search which he may be able to arrange while this patrol is in operation.
(iv) The first Group will be sailed to arrive patrol p.m./28. (C. in C. H.F. 1512/26.)
My 1512/26.para. (iv). Take FIJI under your orders and proceed tomorrow to establish patrol between T R 36 and Iceland. You will probably be on patrol for 7 days. (C. in C. H.F. 1524/26 to NIGERIA.).

MODESTA.

My position is 062° 42' N., 015° 23' W., MODESTA proceeding under armed guard.E.T.A. Kirkwall 0900/29.
(NORTHERN GIFT by Scapa W/T 1630/26.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

U N S T in operation now. All other air patrols and air escorts cancelled owing to weather today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0830/26.).

Brest Area.

My OPS 998 25/3. Weather conditions will not permit bombing operations in Brest area tonight.(C. in C. B.Cd. 1321/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.).

/Close-hauling.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26. 3. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Close-hauling of Balloons.

It is understood that orders have been given to 952 Squadron to close Haul balloon to 1000 feet at night. As this would render the barrage ineffective it is requested that these orders may be cancelled or deferred pending investigations. (C. in C. Nore 1327/26.).

Own A/C and Southampton and Eastleigh Barrages.

H.Q. F.C. reports:- At 1530/ 23 friendly biplane flew through Southampton barrage at 1000 feet subsequently landing Eastleigh. Particulars Osprey K6790 P/O Douglas. At 1725/ amphibian flew through Eastleigh barrage at height between 1000 and 3000 ft. evidently attempting to land at aerodrome but after two red Verey lights were fired aircraft flew off in direction of Worthy Down ends. Request report.
(Air Ministry, F.O.6. 1640/26 to R.A.N.A.S.

Thames Estuary. Balloon Barrage.

A 219 26/3. C. in C. Nore Protests against gun operational control being exercised over Thames Estuary balloons which have been lowered at night to 1000 feet.
Please instruct your local A.A. Defence Commander to co-ordinate with Naval Authorities pointing out that balloons cannot prevent bombing from aircraft above their operational heights but that guns may succeed in doing so if balloons are controlled so as to prevent their interference. Also explain that no balloons are lowered which do not affect this special equipment and all balloons revert to operational height automatically if enemy aircraft are plotted below 6000 feet. (H.Q.F.C. 1800/26 to A/A Command.).

Search for U-boat.

If weather is suitable, 6 Hudson A/C will carry out a U.Boat search tomorrow in sector radius 300 miles from Tory Island between bearing 280° and 315° leaving Tory Island at 0700 and returning 1300. If BOREAS and ACHATES are in this sector between times mentioned they should co-operate with aircraft. (C. in C. W.A. 2235/26 to BOREAS, ACHATES.).

MOST SECRET.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ROSSMORE (British, 627 tons) bombed and sunk MARINA (Finnish 1407 tons).

From Hayle to Barry Docks bombed and sunk N.E. Godreavy Island 12 miles at 1745/24. Four survivors landed at St. Ives by S.S. MARINA of which two badly injured one slightly 5 missing. One plane in attack two direct hits, MARINA machine gunned no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0810/26).

BEAVERBRAE (Bombed 25/3).

Standing by BEAVERBRAE on fire fore and aft. Position 060° 1'N., 009° 46'W. After part red hot, after deck blown up, and sides fractured. Salvage prospects nil. Request instructions. (BRIGAND, 0845/26).
BRIGANDS 0846/26. BEAVERBRAE should be sunk. If present TARTAR's concurrence should be obtained. On completion order WINDERMERE to escort BRIGAND to base.
(C.in C. W.A. 1119/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1129/26 to BRIGAND).
Sailed tug BRIGAND to assist BEAVERBRAE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1505/25).
BEAVERBRAE was attacked by Focke Wulf aircraft at 0805/25 in 60° 12'N., 09° 08'W. Aircraft attacked 3 times from low level with M/G cannon, and 2 bombs, one of which hit after deck. Entire crew of 84 landed Lyness from TARTAR. 3 slight casualties 2 being retained in AMARAPOORA. A/C was hit both by fire from Bofors and Hotchkiss.
(A.C.O.S. 1835/26).
Report position. BRIGAND and whether BEAVERBRAE has sunk.
(C.in C. W.A. 2319/26 to WINDERMERE).

A/C shot down off Harwich.

One M.E.110 shot down in position 51° 52'N., 1° 35'E.
(VERSATILE 0905/26, 1701/26).
VERSATILE's 1701. Original Signal 0905 referred to believed JU.88 brought down - later identified as probably ME.110.

A/C was definitely hit many times by pom pom and Lewis Gunfire at close range and seen to crash in sea in 51° 52'N., 01° 40'E.

Two of own fighters in vicinity at the time.

A/C machine gunned ship. No casualties or damage.
(C.in C. Nore, 1937/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BRIGAND.	(Rescue Tug) Attacked by aircraft in 60° 14'N., 9° 31'W. (BRIGAND 1235/26). Attacked by one Hostile Aircraft in 061° 14 N., 009° 31'W. Sticks of bombs BEAVERBRAE then flew eastwards. (BRIGAND 1250/26).
Convoy F.N.Odd.	One enemy aircraft shadowing Convoy PILOT my position 52° N., 1° 58'E. (VORTIGERN 1612/26, PUFFIN, 1616/26).
TROUT damaged.	N.O.I.C. Poole reports TROUT Q V 4 and CENTAURUS Q V 5 attacked by enemy A/C in Studland Bay at 1300 today. 4 Bombs dropped 2 exploded, one near miss damaged Q.V.4 but vessel towed into harbour and being slipped. No casualties Q.V's fired at and although consider hit aircraft no damage was observed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1722/26).
Auskerry Lighthouse.	At 1415 enemy A/C attacked Auskerry Lighthouse. One bomb within 50 yards but no casualties or damage to Light. Living quarters slightly damaged. (A.C.O.S. 1810/26).
CAROLINA THORDEN (Finnish 3645 Tons) bombed.	Attacking by aircraft south Nolso Finnish ship struck requires assistance immediately. (LEICESTER CITY, 1905/26). Bombing attack by two enemy aircraft believed to be Heinkel 111K at 1915/26 on Finnish CAROLINA THORDEN which had just cleared for Philadelphia. Ship directly hit and is now on fire and will likely be total loss. As far as can be ascertained at present no deaths no other damage. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 2350/26).

MOST

WAR DIARY.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

1st M.S.F. abandoned. MENESTHEUS damaged.	One airplane shadowing MUSIC in 61° N., 6° 47'W. (S.O. 1st M.S.F. 1027/26). MENESTHEUS received slight damage above water from two bouncing bomb hits from Focke Wulfe. No casualties. (R.A.M.L. 1430/26).
EMPIRE MERMAID, (British 6381 Tons) bombed.	In 58° 36'N., 19° W. EMPIRE MERMAID bombed. Enemy gone. (Valentia 1030/26). In 58° 36'N., 10° W. EMPIRE MERMAID bombed and hit. (Wick Radio 1034/26). Proceed forthwith in company to 58° 36'N., 10° W. where EMPIRE MERMAID has been bombed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1124/26 to BRIGAND WINDERMERE). EMPIRE MERMAID bombed. Engine room flooding. Towage assistance urgent. (Lands End, 1140/26) G.M.T. Proceed to assist, and report situation. Tug BRIGAND is being sent. (C.in C. W.A. 1155/26 to ACHATES, BOREAS) Position of EMPIRE MERMAID now reported as 58° 36'W., 10° W. Order BRIGAND repeated WINDERMERE to proceed to this position. (C.in C. W.A. 1335/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1155/26. As position of EMPIRE MERMAID is uncertain pass through 58° 38'N., 18° 10'W. only if convenient. Search in this area is not necessary. Tug BRIGAND is not being sent to above position. (C.in C. W.A. 1612/26).
SAINT FINTAN.	My 1215/24. Body now identified as one of crew of S.S. SAINT FINTAN 495 tons. Vessel cleared from Cardiff 18/3. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1135/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

KNOLL bombed.

(Norwegian 1151 Tons). Beached Lundy landing place. Captain reports having been bombed and machine gunned by 2 German planes 8 miles West of Lundy. Fore hold half full of water. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1947/26).

Convoy F.N.42. SOMALI (British 6809 tons) damaged.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy LUNCH. My position 54° 21'N., 1° 25'W. (HASTINGS 2009/26).
Convoy LUNCH needs help from aircraft attack. (HASTINGS 2010/26).
My 2009. SOMALI hit. On fire. (HASTINGS 2015 /26).
Request immediate assistance for SOMALI at 20 T buoy. (HASTINGS 2017/26).
SOMALI has no water service. LEDA standing by burning ship. (HASTINGS 2040/26).
HASTINGS 2015. Bridge and midship section wrecked. Fire almost under control. Am standing by. My position 055° 23.5' N., 001° 21'W. (LEDA 2050/26).
Tug and auxiliary patrol vessel are being sent to assist you from Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2104/26 to HASTINGS.
Rescue tug SEA GIANT and Commercial tug left Tyne and proceeding to SOMALI. Two patrol trawlers also converging on position. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2255/26).
Your 2158/26. Tug should meet you approx 0100/27. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2310/26 to LEDA).

UNST bombed.

Between 1715 and 1725 enemy aircraft was plotted north of Shetlands. This A/C attacked A.M.E. Station Skaw in the island of Unst with bomb and M/G fire. No damage or casualties reported. (A.C.O.S. 2045/26).

FARADAY.

Bombed and hit by enemy plane 1½ miles from St. Anne's at 1945 while entering harbour and burnt fiercely. Crew abandoned and picked up by VIVA II escorting. Position at 2130 FARADAY still on fire drifting towards Marloes Sands. 4 tugs proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2131/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Z M E 25.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1600 today for Z M E 25 to lay at midnight returning on completion about 0745 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1028/26)
Faeroes - Iceland Minefield Reinforcement.	Admiralty's 1346/24. Order of laying fields should be (a) S.N. 8 (c) S.N. 9 (b) S.N. 67 (C in C H.F. 1117/26 to R.A.M.L.)
G X	Operation G X is postponed to night of 27/28 March. (C in C Plymouth 1309/26).
ABDIEL.	My 1209/25. Propose ABDIEL lay as follows (V.C.N.S. 1326/26) See Operations Volume. Intend to sail ABDIEL for Milford Haven at 1940/26. (C in C Plymouth 1341/26.)
DAGGER	2. A.L. M010210/40 series (Plan DAGGER and amendments) are cancelled and are to be destroyed by fire. Dispositions of M/S Vessels made prior to or subsequent to them are not affected and vessels remain attached to their present bases. Admty. 1331/5/6/40 and 1819/25/10/40 are also cancelled. (A.C.N.S. H 1350/26.) Reference A.M. 186 AZ of 26th March cancelling Plan DAGGER. The Admiralty's general direction with respect to enemy minelaying and our minesweeping effort in the event of Invasion is contained in A.L. M.M/S 074/41 dated 5/3 1941. (A.C.N.S. H. 1430/26.)
S N 4	Operation completed. (R.A.M.L. 1430/26).
B S 53	LA MELPOMENE and SHELDRAKE arrive Humber 28th and a.m. 28th reqpectively to form escort B.S. 53. You should if possible sail for operation on 29/3. (C in C Nore 1556/26 to TEVIOT BANK)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

B.S. 53 Contd.	My 1556/26. Escort cannot now arrive at Humber before 31/3. You should arrange to sail for B S 53 on 1/4. (C in C Nore 2204/26.)
Eastern Channel Clearance Sweep.	Should visibility necessitate anchor in Southern Downs till daylight. Dungeness and Dover fog signals will operate. (V.A. Dover 1836/26.)
Thames Estuary.	One S.A. mine detonated as follows at 1236/26. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1927/26.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Gironde.

Air R/C reports no enemy large warships in the Gironde estuary as far as Bordeaux.
(B.D.I.C. 1753/26).

Oiling ships at Sea.

It is intended to oil capital ships, aircraft carriers, and cruisers in the open seas under the following conditions:

(i) Fair weather with slight ocean swell
(ii) Admiralty oilers to be used.
(iii) Oiler to be ahead of warship requiring oil.
(iv) Speed of advance immaterial.
(v) Stirrups and 5 inch hose required can be made available.

2. Request you will carry out at an early date preliminary trials.
(V.C.N.S. 1204/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Miscellaneous.

Wick closed.

Wick harbour closed. Weather.
(R.N.O. Wick, 1210/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26. 3. 1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Limit of 40 Ships Waived.

Your 1216/2. In view of urgent necessity for a quick turn round of Shipping it has become impracticable to retain a limit of 40 ships in a convoy. N.C.S.Os at Ocean Convoy Assembly Ports at Home should be instructed that shipping is not to be delayed on account of a convoy exceeding 40 ships but N.C.S.O. Mersey is to inform C. in C.W.A and Admty., if number is likely to be materially exceeded. (A.C.N.S.(T).1041/26, to C. in C. W.A.). (C. in C. W.A., 2136/26, to N.C.S.O. Mersey.).

Burning of Navigation Lights.

Admty. Message "E U." Whilst in Area 1, large liners outward-bound from U.K. have discretion to burn navigation lights at full brilliance westward of 25° W., when northward of 40° N. All other merchant ships proceeding independently are normally to exhibit dimmed navigation lights within these limits. (D.T.D. 1352/26 to G.B.M.S. all areas.).

Shipping in Pentland Firth.

C. in C. Nore's 1620/25. In view of C. in C. Nore's reasons I am prepared to accept lights being shown in Pentland Firth. Requested they may be ordered for minimum time. They will be extinguished in event of an air raid. If night raids on Scapa recommence on a large scale I may have to reconsider this decision.
(A.C.O.S., 1558/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.).

HX.112.

On time at R.V. Convoy attacked under A/S escort, following ships torpedoed and sunk J.B. WHITE, VENETIA, FERM, KORSHAMN and BEDUIN. FRANCHE COMTE torpedoed and arrived in harbour. ERODONA torpedoed and now in tow. A/S Escort made successful count attacks. (D.T.D. 1910/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottaw

Military Convoys.

W.S.7.

A.T. 1747/17. Amend escorts for W.S.7. to read (s) Freetown to Cape - for REPULSE re NELSON. (A.C.N.S.(F). 2006/26, to C. in C. E.I. and S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.41.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Unknown Ship.	S.O.S. Following received from unknown ship at 0633 G.M.T. Begins sinking rapidly off H.2 buoy ends. (Humber Radio 0633/26.).
VIMEIRA.	(British Tanker, 8728 Tons) F.N.42 expected time of arrival 20 C buoy 1630. VIMEIRA bow considerably damaged by collision. Propose diverting her to Tyne. (HASTINGS 0915/26.).
EWELL.	(British, 1350 Tons) Arrived down by the head. Salvage vessel NESSUS and H.M.Tug SABINE in attendance. DRAUG escorting at 1220. (F.O. Humber 1240/26.).
East Dudgeon.	Following received from Trinity House Superintendent. Begins: East Dudgeon damaged and out of action. No.59 buoy damaged and extinguished. 1252/26. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1355/26.).
LORNASTON.	(British, 4934 Tons.). Your telephone message 1142/26/3. LORNASTON has gone to Leith to make good damage done in collision (N.C.S.O. Methil 1434/26 to Adty.).
SPHENE.	(British, 815 Tons). Ex E N 91, bound Maryport, slightly damaged in collision and has put in to Lyness. Temporary repairs will be effected and vessel sailed in next convenient westbound convoy.(A.C.O.S.1814/2
H.44.	Your 2129/24. Following defects in H.44 necessitates extension of notice for sea to 8 hours until completion of work. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1841/26.).
REINA DEL PACIFICO.	Required to dock at Liverpool on 28/3. 2. Request you will arange escort and sail this ship from Clyde accordingly. 3. Ship can maintain 15 knots and is fully loaded with troops. (A.C.N.S.H. 2200/26.).

MOST SECRET.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H, fuelling. — I am assuming that Admiralty will give instructions (? before proceeding) whether Force H is to refuel at Gibraltar or from CAIRNDALE. (S.O. Force H, 0831/26, to Admty.).

GERDA VITH (German) — My 0955/24 GERDA VITH sailed last night. Uncertain about colours on sides. (Consul, Vigo, 1000/26, to Admty.).

SHEFFIELD — SHEFFIELD's 1323/23. Dock available. In view of her 2001/17 time to complete underwater repairs may considerably exceed 24 hours. Request early decision whether dock should be prepared. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1156/26, to Admty.). Your 1156/26. It appears SHEFFIELD's operational efficiency is only affected so far as endurance is concerned. Her immediate operational commitments are of such urgency as to make docking for more than 24 hours very undesirable. If examination during 24 hours docking would assist later repairs this may be carried out on her arrival. (D.O.D.(F) 1646/26 to A.S., Gibraltar).

Spanish Ships carrying Germans. — All ships of Spanish Naviera Aznar Line to be boarded when practicable. Suspected of carrying Germans not shown on Passengers or crew lists. (Instructions). (F.O.C.N.A., 1208/26, to N.A. Station) (See also South Atlantic 0531/26)

SKAANE (Danish) — My 1510/30 (Master of SKAANE instructed by his owners not to leave Lisbon) May I expect to receive reply? (Consul-General, Lisbon, 1735/26, to Admty.).

Explosions. — Today at noon several explosions heard S.S.E. of Cape Carvoeiro. (N.A. Lisbon, 1801/26, to Admty.).

Yugoslav Shipping. — My 1600/9 (Yugo-Slav ships applying for bunkers) and D. of S.T. 2007/22. What is position about Yugo Slav ships on this trade now? No supplies being made pending further instructions. (A.S. Gibraltar, 2034/26, to Admty.).

/ CAIRNDALE (to oil Force H, ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

CAIRNDALE (to oil Force H, Bay of Biscay.)	Gibraltar departure R.F.A. CAIRNDALE escorted by FLEUR DE LYS and COREOPSIS in accordance with my 1748/25. (F.O.C.N.A. 2036/26, to Admty.).
REGISTAN MARSDALE	A.M. 1212/26 and A.M. 1324/26 para. 2. REGISTAN has been sailed for T 3. MARSDALE sailing p.m. /28 is therefore available for Northern Zone as directed by F.O.C.N.P. (F.O.C.N.A., 2142/26 to Admty.).

South Atlantic.

ASAKA MARU	Japanese Naval ship ASAKA (ex ASAKA MARU) from Spain to Japan is estimated to be in lat. 7° N. southbound 15 knots. If met she is to be reported at first opportunity without breaking W/T silence and her p.c. and s. indicated. (C.in C. S.A., 0123N/26, to S.A. Sqdn.).
S.L.69 Escorts.	C.in C. S.A's 1047/25 and my 0009/22. Intend that additional ocean escort for Convoy S.L.69 shall be provided as follows. Dates and positions approximate. REPULSE as far as endurance will alow, thence to Gibraltar with FURIOUS. MAURITIUS to join convoy when REPULSE leaves remaining until 5/4 32° N. 27° W. then to Freetown for S.L. 71. EDINBURGH to leave W.S.7 on 29/3 proceed to Gibraltar for fuel, relieving MAURTIUS on 5/4 and escorting convoy till A/S escort joins. C.in C. S.A. requested to sail NARKUNDA with either FURIOUS or MAURITIUS and to arrange for her to continue with REPULSE and FURIOUS to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 0152/26, to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., C.S.18.)

/ MAURITIUS ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MAURITIUS — If nothing is in sight at daylight proceed at best speed to Bathurst for fuel and report E.T.A.
(C.in C. S.A., 0305N/26 to MAURITIUS).

Spanish Ships carrying Germans. — Reported ships of Spanish Naviera Aznar Line names commencing with MONTE) when trading between Spain and S. America via Canary Is. and vice versa sometimes carry Germans not shown on either crew or passenger list.
Any ship of this line encountered at sea outside region guaranteed by American Neutrality zone (see S.A. General message 127 G / of 24/12/1940) should be boarded, circumstances permitting.
Ships are not to be diverted for purposes of this search.
(C.in C. S.A., 0531N/26, to S.A. Station).

W.S.6. — CORNWALL and PHOEBE escorting Durban portion of Convoy W.S.6 arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0833Z/26).

BRITANNIA, raider report. — Your 1259N/25. BRITANNIA made following amplifying message received at 0920N/25 (begins) QQQQ 007° 24' N. 024° 03' W. BRITANNIA chased-gunned, course North speed 15. (ends). Longitude of position of attack in BRITANNIA's first report was also 024° 03' W.
(MAURITIUS, 1032/26 to C.in C. S.A.).

PAMPANO
AIDA LAURO
MAGGIO
STELLA
AFRICANA
Italian) — My 1002/20 PAMPANO has taken 940 tons oil fuel from tanker. AIDA LAURO has transferred 540 tons coal to MAGGIO, and it is understood STELLA will receive 2000 and AFRICANA 1000 tons.
All ships are receiving large amounts fresh water and are provisioning extensively.
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1036/26 to Admty.)
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1744Z/26 to S.A. Div.).

MARISTELLA
VOLUNTAS
PELORUM
(Italian) — My 1719/20 MARISTELLA sailing P.M./27 (grade A1) VOLUNTAS and PELORUM at Quequen expected to receive similar orders at any moment.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1041/26, to R.A.S.A.D., D.N.I., etc.).

DURENDA — Overdue shipping, my 1119/22, DURENDA arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1041B/26).

/ REPULSE ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

REPULSE
FURIOUS
MAURITIUS
S.L.69.

My 1947/25/3 and your 0153/26/3. As originally routed REPULSE if she proceeded to Gibraltar would have had one day with convoy and could not have remained until MAURITIUS joined. As now routed REPULSE FURIOUS and Destroyers can remain with convoy till a.m./29 proceeding to Gibraltar east of Canary Islands. MAURITIUS probably able to join convoy A.M./29. REPULSE to comply.
(C.in C. S.A., 1101/26, to Admty.).

DELHI.

Admty. 1539/24. DELHI reports that under war conditions Ship will use 77% of fuel if sent from Freetown to Trinidad direct without zigzagging and at 12 knots only.
DELHI proposes that on passage from Simonstown to Trinidad ship should fuel at St. Helena and Pernambuco or alternatively St. Helena, Freetown and St. Vincent Cape Verde Islands. Propose to sail DELHI a.m./28.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1150B/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

Raider Report 22/3.

Force X's 1720Z/24. From information available in Admiralty it is unlikely SACRAMENTO VALLEY was in position given in your 1830N/23. Her maximum speed is 9½ knots.
(D.D.I.C. 1230/26 to C.in C. S.A.).

Convoys off French W.A.

Undesirable that convoys should be routed within 100 miles of Dakar or French W.A. coast and 120 miles would be better. Exact extent of French air reconnaissance is not known but aircraft have been met 120 miles S.W. of Dakar as reported in my 2215/18/2. If sighted details would undoubtedly be reported ashore and would get through from Agents or pro Germans. (C.in C. S.A., 1239N/26, to Admty.).

DUNCAN
FOXHOUND
W.S.7.

Your 1259/25 and A.T. 1416/9. Not now intend that DUNCAN and FOXHOUND should return to Gibraltar with FURIOUS.
Presume this will enable you to use all four destroyers for inward escort of W.S.7.
(D.O.D.(P) 1353/26 to C.in C. S.A.).
Departure 1230/26 FURIOUS, DUNCAN, FOXHOUND to R.V. with S.L.69.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1657/26).
Admty. 1353/26, DUNCAN and FOXHOUND are to be detached so as we arrive at Bathurst P.M./29, fuel and be ready to sail 1600/30.
Destroyers will be required to R/V with and escort W.S.7 to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A., 2049N/26, to FURIOUS, REPULSE).

/ AMABILITAS
VITTORIO VENETO .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

	My 1041/26.
AMABILITAS VITTORIO VENETO (Italian)	AMABILITAS sailing 2200Z/26 from Bahia Blanca. VITTORIO VENETO sails from there 27/3 indicated as at 0700. (Grade A.1). (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1515/26, to R.A.S.A.D. amended 1640/26). My 1515/26. Reported AMABILITAS postponed sailing. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 2205/26, to R.A.S.A.D., etc.).
Route E. of Canary Islands.	Your 1101/26 and A.M. 1353/26. It is not considered advisable for REPULSE and FURIOUS to pass east of Canary Islands without destroyer screen. (F.O.C.N.A. 1736/26, to C.in C. S.A.) See Admty. 1831/27.
German Unit Report.	C. 3 source reports that a German unit "D. 241", reported on 25/3, that she was lying damaged in 11° 28' S. 19° 12' W. awaiting assistance. Comment. Report may be planted, but "41" is believed to be a raider which has been operating in Pacific. D/F indications of a German unit in this area on 11/3. (D.D.I.C. 1740/26 to C.in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)
SACRAMENTO VALLEY	Arrived 26/3. Will do utmost to sail her S.L.70. (M.S.R. Freetown, 1756/26).
VIDETTE defect.	Has damaged port propeller which requires replacement, spare presumably available Gibraltar. Request whether WRESTLER or VELOX can now relieve VIDETTE, ships to sail simultaneously from Gibraltar and Freetown. VIDETTE's estimated maximum speed now 15 knots. Your 1218/19/2, refers. (C.in C. S.A. 1839/26, to F.O.C.N.A.).
Raider Attack on BRITANNIA	BRITANNIA's? (0970/25) passed by MAURITIUS was not received and decyphered until 1530/26/3 when MAURITIUS was on way to Bathurst to comply with your 0152/26 Additional Ocean escort for S.L.69 and my 0305/26 no further information of BRITANNIA now established that SACRAMENTO VALLEY was ship reported by SEVERN. (C.in C. S.A. 2051N/26 to Adty.).
NORDERNEY MONBALDO	Para reports German ship NORDERNEY has stopped loading having loaded all cargo booked to date. C.3 report that Italian ship MONBALDO is about to sail from Para. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2154Z/26, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B probably sunk by Greek T.B.

A communique issued by the Greek Ministry of Marine states that the Greek torpedo-boat SPHENDONI on night of March 11 was attacked by an Italian submarine, which fired three torpedoes; all of them missed. SPHENDONI then opened fire with all her guns against the submarine, and there was every indication that it was sunk. (The Times, 26/3/41).

Tripoli missing.

Consider mining of Tripoli Harbour is of extreme importance and should be primary task of 830 F.A.A. Sqdn. Admiralty concur. Understand V.A. Malta, has already been informed. Suggest that when attacks are carried out all available aircraft should carry mines.
(Air Ministry, 1130/26, to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.)

Tripoli bombed.

Operational Summary No.289 up to 1200/26.
Night 24/25 3 Wellingtons dropped 4,240 lbs. bombs Tripoli Harbour starting 2 fires near Government Offices and explosions.
Day 25/3 Blenheim reconnaissance reported 5 small ships Buerat El Hsun. 21/3.

Br. tanker bombed.

Convoy for Greece bombed by JU. 88's Kithera Channel. 2 hits on 1 tanker. (see 25/3)
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1138/26)

YORK)
PERICLES)

Torpedoed (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1251/26 - see 31/3).

Enemy Convoy.

At 1000 B/26 convoy of 5 enemy merchant vessels escorted by 3 destroyers passed Kelibia Roads from southwards speed 10 knots, 4 of these vessels estimated as 15000 tons each. Reliability A.1.
(S.O.I. Malta, 1254/26, to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

C.in C. Med. 1728/26 See Mediterranean Volume.

Dispositions and Instructions.

My 1728/26. You should complete Force B 7th C.S. GLOUCESTER and destroyers, with fuel P.M./27 and sail for R.V. with Force C., NUBIAN, MOHAWK, HAVOCK, HOTSPUR, GREYHOUND, at 0630/28 in 034° 20' N., 024° 10' E. They will be sailed P.M./27 from Alexandria.
(ii) Convoy AG 9 will be turned back for Alexandria at dusk /27 and GA 8 will not be sailed until situation clears.
(iii) HEREWARD, VENDETTA will be ordered to Suda Bay to join you on 27/3.
(iv) JUNO, JAGUAR, DEFENDER will be kept at immediate notice at Piraeus.
(v) ROVER is being ordered to patrol off

/ Suda Bay ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Dispositions and Instructions.

Suda Bay and TRIUMPH South Milo. (Amended, Capt. S.1. 2205/26, 2209/26).
(vi) Greeks are being warned to clear area of shipping and will be asked to keep their destroyers at short notice.
(vii) Maximum scale shore based air reconnaissance will be laid on to westward Kithera Channel.
(viii) Fleet Air Arm Maleme will standby with (?Torpedo aircraft) and fighters air borne at dawn.
(ix) S.B.N.O. Suda Bay is being warned to withdraw patrol craft under defence of Suda Bay.
(x) CARLISLE will be ordered to Suda Bay to reinforce A.A. there as intense air activity is expected.
(xi) All authorities Crete? are being warned to standby for trouble.
(xii) Your action must depend on circumstances. Your dawn position has been selected to enable you to withdraw in face of an unreasonably superior force or to intercept force as it returns. (C.in C. Med., 1814/26, to V.A.L.F.).

YORK and PERICLES torpedoed.

My 0309/26. (N.T. in W.D.) Damage as follows. Torpedo hit on bulkhead between B boiler room and forward liner room both of which are open to sea. Cause of flooding in A boiler room and after engine room probably strained bulkheads. Salvage tug's pumps are making some headway in A boiler room. Further assessment of damage impracticable until this boiler room has been cleared of water possibly a.m./27. Another salvage tug is required.
(YORK, 1521/26, to C.in C. Med.).
YORK torpedoed at Suda Bay at (?0600) both (?engine) room and boiler rooms flooded. Ship beached in 4½ fathoms. It appears doubtful if ship will be able to steam. YORK states attack apparently by one-man submarine.
(C.in C. Med., 1734/26, to Admty.).
My 1734/26. Attack on ships at Suda Bay was apparently made by six one-man boats. Of these one has been recovered intact and two are known to have blown up. Six prisoners picked up on a raft. Oiler PERICLES also hit amidships at same time as YORK and holed both sides. Ship has been beached but is capable of steaming, cargo intact less about 500 tons.
(C.in C. Med., 1930/26, to Admty.)

TICINO mined.

Italian Auxiliary TICINO struck a floating mine in 038° 06' N. 012° 31' E. at 1444/26.
(Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 1802/26).

TRIUMPH

Cancel previous orders. Proceed forthwith with utmost despatch to position 036°10' 026°25'.
(Capt. S.1, 2205/26, to TRIUMPH).

/ ROVER ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Dispositions and Instructions.	Suda Bay and TRIUMPH South Milo. (Amended, Capt. S.1. 2205/26, 2209/26). (vi) Greeks are being warned to clear area of shipping and will be asked to keep their destroyers at short notice. (vii) Maximum scale shore based air reconnaissance will be liad on to westward Kithera Channel. (viii) Fleet Air Arm Maleme will standby with (?Torpedo aircraft) and fighters air borne at dawn. (ix) S.B.N.O. Suda Bay is being warned to withdraw patrol craft under defence of Suda Bay. (x) CARLISLE will be ordered to Suda Bay to reinforce A.A. there as intense air activity is expected. (xi) All authorities Crete? are being warned to standby for trouble. (xii) Your action must depend on circumstances. Your dawn position has been selected to enable you to withdraw in face of an unreasonably superior force or to intercept force as it returns. (C.in C. Med., 1814/26, to V.A.L.F.).
YORK and PERICLES torpedoed.	My 0609/26. (N.T. in W.D.) Damage as follows. Torpedo hit on bulkhead between B boiler room and forward liner room both of which are open to sea. Cause of flooding in A boiler room and after engine room probably strained bulkheads. Salvage tug's pumps are making some headway in A boiler room. Further assessment of damage impracticable until this boiler room has been cleared of water possibly a.m./27. Another salvage tug is required. (YORK, 1521/26, to C.in C. Med.). YORK torpedoed at Suda Bay at (?0600) both (?engine) room and boiler rooms flooded. Ship beached in 4½ fathoms. It appears doubtful if ship will be able to steam. YORK states attack apparently by one-man submarine. (C.in C. Med., 1734/26, to Admty.). My 1734/26. Attack on ships at Suda Bay was apparently made by six one-man boats. Of these one has been recovered intact and two are known to have blown up. Six prisoners picked up on a raft. Oiler PERICLES also hit amidships at same time as YORK and holed both sides. Ship has been beached but is capable of steaming, cargo intact less about 500 tons. (C.in C. Med., 1930/26, to Admty.)
TICINO mined.	Italian Auxiliary TICINO struck a floating mine in 038° 06' N. 012° 31' E. at 1444/26. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 1802/26).
TRIUMPH	Cancel previous orders. Proceed forthwith with utmost despatch to position 036°10' 026°25'. (Capt. S.1, 2205/26, to TRIUMPH).

/ ROVER ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

ROVER. Cancel previous orders. Proceed forthwith with utmost despatch to Kithera Channel. (Capt. S.1 2209/26, to ROVER).

East Indies.

CHARLES L.D. Re important papers and further search. (D.D.N.I., 0006/26, to N.O.I.C. Mauritius). My 1144/24. Governor has requisitioned French ship CHARLES L D. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0851Z/26).

Attack on Padhli Sultan. My 1736/25/3. See Governor Aden's Tel.135 to S. of S. for Colonies. See Lion copy. (C.in C. E.I., 0632Z/26, to Admty.).

Stordfish Flight for Suez. Your 1628/25 and D.S.T.O's 18/3. Hope to embark Swordfish and personnel in ship asked for by D.S.T.O. Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. E. Africa, 0840Z/26, to C.in C.E.I)

CANBERRA To leave Mauritius a.m./27 to search vicinity of Nazareth Bank and Saya De Malha returning to Mauritius 1/4. CANBERRA will be required to escort transport leaving Mauritius about 3/4 for Northward. (C.in C. E.I., 0842Z/26, to CANBERRA)

Boom Defences, Aden. Your 1834/5/11/40. Experience is proving difficulty of maintaining efficiency of Boom Defences at Aden. Any possibility of BARNET being relieved by a proper boom defence vessel? (C.in C. E.I., 1158Z/26, to Admty.).

Work of R.I.N. C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/26 See Lion Copy only.

ODER. German. Information from interrogation of prisoners. (Ship scuttled in estimated position 12° 33' N., 43° 21½' E., on 23/3). Crew of 54 escaped in 4 boats. One boat captured containing 15, others unaccounted for. (S. N.O. Red Sea, 2058Z/26 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Defence Against Japan.

Comments on tel. 109 to Dominions Office from Prime Minister, New Zealand. (C.in C. China, 09152/26 to Admty.). Full text in Lion copy only.

Anglo-U.S. and Dutch Communications.

Reply to 1403/14/3 re systems of inter communication in force in the Far East. (Head of M. 1403/26 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

MALAYA, secrecy.

Owing to numerous air passengers in transit through Trinidad for New York, impossible to prevent presence of MALAYA becoming known after arrival. Consider ship should be sailed for refitting Port with all possible despatch. Request destination be communicated. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1021/26, to Admty.).

Use of P/L.

A.M. 1200/22/2. (Re use of P/L by W/T on home stations). Same method of authenticating plain language messages as adopted by C.in C. S.A. has been brought into force on America & West Indies Station. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1154/26, to Admty. etc.).

DUNEDIN

Your 1701/16. Regretted that at present it is considered there is a greater need for DUNEDIN on S.A. Stn. Question of her return to your Command will be borne in mind. (D.O.D.(F) 1245/26 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

H.X. Convoys, HOOD, RAMILLIES, REVENGE ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 0011/15 and my 1047/15. Request confirmation that HOOD is being made available for H.X.118. Expect RAMILLIES to undock 29/3 but if delayed by bad weather ship might be too late for this convoy after refuelling Halifax. Assume RAMILLIES escort H.X.119, REVENGE H.X.120, and ROYAL SOVEREIGN H.X.121, it appears RODNEY could escort T.C.10. In this circumstances a further captial ship would be required for H.X.122 and if possible H.X.123, in case RAMILLIES is late returning. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1413/26, to Admty.).

/ French units and M.V's ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

French Units and M.V's

My 1238/21 seven destroyers mentioned should be read seven submarines. They are believed to have left for Rio de Ora for convoy work.
Following from State Department from Casablanca following number of vessels regularly employed as indicated: between Casablanca and Dakar 23 between Casablanca and Martinique 5 between Oran and Marseilles 21 between Casablanca and Bordeaux.
(N.A. Washington 1635/26).
Request confirmation that RAMILLIES will complete in sufficient time to escort H.X.118.
(A.C.N.S.(R) 1811/26 to R.A.3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WESTERN CHIEF. British (ex-American) 5759 tons, straggler from S.C.24. Netherlands S.S. VENUS landed Ponta Delgada Master and 20 other survivors from WESTERN CHIEF torpedoed 2150 G.M.T./14 058° 52' N. 021° 13' W.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1050/26, to Admty.)
(D.S. 559).

PROMETHEUS, (attacked 26/2) British Ship PROMETHEUS arrived 25/3 from Liverpool. Master reports convoy attacked on 26/2, first by U-Boat and later by 5 aircraft which attacked with cannon, machine guns and bombs. Minor damage to Engine Room and hull which does not affect seaworthiness. Fear that cargo may be damaged from bomb explosions. Ship sailing 27/3 for Middle East.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1350/26, to Admty.).

ERODONA (torpedoed 16/3) Your 1400 (not to Admty.) THAMES arrived 1730 and endeavouring to get tow line on board. My loose tow line parted at 1600. Will render all possible assistance and intend to escort to Reykjavik. Weather moderating.
(VISENDA, 1915/26, to S.O.N.P.T., R.A.N.P.).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1355/26).

Submarines Attacked.

By RIPLEY At 1825/26, 55.10 N., 10.52 W., 270° Bloody Foreland 92', made 6 attacks on contact. No visible result. (A.2)
(D.S. 569).

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy Battle Cruisers.

It is reliably reported that the enemy battle cruisers are in Brest. Submarines on patrol off the Bay of Biscay have been redisposed.

Denmark Straits patrol.

C.S.1. considers the Denmark Straits patrol to be in effective at present and makes certain proposals for rendering if effective.

Air protection of shipping in Western Approaches.

In order to make more economical use of Coastal Command aircraft engaged in the protection of shipping in the Western Approaches, certain routeing arrangements have been made which are detailed in Admty. 2334/27 to C.in C. W.A.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night on account of bad weather. Eight Blenheims today in the course of a sweep attacked a naval formation consisting of a submarine, 20 E/Boats, 3 probable destroyers and other vessels west of Schonweir.

Bad weather caused patrols to be much curtailed today. R/C of Brest and St. Nazaire was unsuccessful.

S.S. BERNARD VON TSHIRSCHKY with valuable cargo on board was attacked in Alderney Harbour today by 6 Skuas. 3 direct hits were obtained.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Several ships were attacked by four enemy aircraft between 1730 and 2100 today approximately between St.Goran's and St. Ann's s.s. PALMSTON, MEG MERRILEES OUD BEYERLAND, are reported to have been damaged. BARONS COURT was slightly damaged by splinters (7 bombs and 1 torpedo reported dropped), and proceeded on passage, she claims to have badly damaged two of the enemy aircraft. LEITH was unsuccessfully attacked this morning and shot down one enemy aircraft 25 miles S.W. of St. Davids Head.

A further attack was made on A.A.M.E. Station Skaw today. No damage is reported.

Fishing trawlers AVONSIDE and PORT DEE were attacked this evening and slightly damaged between the Faeroes and Shetlands.

Mining.

Operation G.X. — 20th D.F. escorted by Capt: D.5. (KELLY) with 4 destroyers laid mines last night off Brest. Fighter protection and diversionary bombing of Brest were arranged.

Z.M.E.25. — PLOVER laid mines last night off the north Coast of Cornwall.

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Enemy air attacks increasing.

C.in C. Med., reports that the scale of air attack in the mediterranean is increasing very rapidly, and he asks that the heavily armed sloops FLAMINGO and AUCKLAND may be sent to him from the Red Sea. Of his 4 A.A. ships two are lame ducks.
(See 31/3 East Indies).

Enemy light force sighted.

At 1220 today aircraft sighted 3 enemy cruisers and a destroyer in 36° 30'N., 16° 40'E., (75 miles E. by S. Cape Passaro), steering 120° (See 29/3).

Two enemy ships torpedoed.

C.in C. Med., reports that at 1150/16 PARTHIAN attacked an escorted convoy east of Cap Dell 'Armi and is thought to have torpedoed a merchant ship and a tanker.

America and West Indies.

The Anglo-United States Bases Agreement was signed today.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

W.A. Command. Inclusion of Iceland.

Admty 2246/24. Inclusion of Iceland in Western Approaches Command though not essential would be a great help operationally.
At least two escort groups will be based Iceland shortly for summer period or longer and I had hoped new Air Forces about to be based Iceland would be joined up to 15 group so as to obtain best operational value.
I understand however that present intention is to place these aircraft under operational control 18group.
I strongly recommend former alternative as this combined H.Q. is only centre where complete operational picture of Atlantic Approaches is centred.
(C. in C. W.A.,1115/27).
Message 2246/24 is being passed to C in C Rosyth.
(C in C H.F. 2359/25).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

Consider Denmark Straits patrol ineffective at present for following reasons:-
(a) One signal from ships on patrol probably sufficient to indicate position of patrol. Several have been made recently
(b) A.M.C's speed insufficient until short nights of May to prevent 20 knot raiders passing during dark hours.
(c) Raiders can use R D/F to have contact in lieu of VV during dark hours.
2. Propose -
(d) Two A.M.C's should be fitted with best surface R D/F at once, or type 286 as stop gap, and should then maintain patrol until May.
(e) Patrol to be moved nearer to Mine-field and adjusted to prevailing ice conditions so as to take (?advantage of) emergency gap between mine-field and ice.
(f) Supporting Cruisers should have aircraft Isafiord should provide shelter waters.
NORFOLK's aircraft is (?embarked) in KING GEORGE V.
(C.S.I. 1145/27 to C in C H.F.)

S.A. Command.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (contd.)

S.A. Command Reinforcement.

Your 2022/26.
(1) Ships detailed and dates ready to sail:- BOREAS 4/3 BRILLIANT on completion of refit ANCHUSA AMARANTHUS 2/4 GARDENIA COLUMBINE 6/4.
(2) Intend corvettes sail with Southbound convoys.
(3) HIGHLANDER due Gibraltar 30/3 has been ordered to join flag of C in C S.A. till relieved by BRILLIANT late in April.
(C in C W.A. 1556/27.)

Movements.

QUEEN ELIZABETH
RODNEY
REVENGE.

Admiralty 0011/15.
It is intended that QUEEN ELIZABETH will escort T.C.10 to the U.K. leaving Halifax about (date).
2. RODNEY is returning to Halifax from Hvalfiord. REVENGE should arrive Halifax 2/4. This should ensure four battleships being available in the Halifax escort force in the immediate future.
(1st S.L. 1031/27 and 0048/28).

HOOD.

B.C.S.1 in HOOD screened by three destroyers is to sail for Halifax 31/3.
(ii) C in C Rosyth is requested to arrange A/S Air Escort for as far to Westward as practicable. Code word LABEL.
(iii) Destroyers are to part company in 025° W and are then to act as ordered by R.A. (D) H.F.
(C in C H.F. 1721/27 and 1907/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern Patrol.

Your 2142/26. Propose MARSDALE takes U.3. REGISTAN T.3. until P.M. 30th thence proceeding to X. one to relieve HILARY.
(F.O.C.N.P. 0930/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Patrol K.

Carry out Patrol K tonight until 2230 then proceed towards F.S.47 and provide cover until daylight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1054/27 to HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK).

Bay of Biscay Submarine Patrol.

TIGRIS (Operation EUROPEAN).

A. TIGRIS patrol in area eastward of long. 04° W., and between 45° N., and 47° 20'N.

B. While in this area object is operation EUROPEAN and to attack ships of all descriptions.
(F.O.S. 1127/27).

Movements and Orders.

SOKOL,
SUNFISH,
SEALION,
CACHALOT,
TAKU,
TUNA,
TORBAY,
024,
L.26,
L.27,
OBERON,
UNBEATEN.

(S.5. 1422/27, 1705/27, 2203/27)
(F.O.S. 1506/27, 1609/27).
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1833/27).

Numbered Positions.

Additional numbered positions 70 to 82 inclusive established as follows.
(F.O.S. 1236/27).
See Summaries Folder.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Object and Orders.

A. The object of submarines on patrol and on passage is

1. When in the free for all area to attack vessels of all descriptions. In addition cruisers and above or large numbers of merchant ships should be reported.

2. When outside this area to attack and then report enemy warships only.

B. U/Boats are not to be attacked unless their identity is established beyond all doubt.

C. At commanding officers discretion full use should be made of underwater signalling to pass enemy reports to adjacent submarines.
(F.O.S. 1949/27 to S/M's Area A).

A/S Sweep off Rockall.

Cancel my 0940/24. ARROW ESKIMO ECLIPSE will not be required to Reykjavik. When released take Home Fleet destroyers under your orders and return to Scapa.

2. If fuel permits divide force and carry out A/S sweeps North and South of Rockall on passage.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1505/27 to D.6.)

Iceland - Faroes Patrol.

Scapa departures FIJI and NIGERIA.
(A.C.O.S. 1644/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

BERNHARD VON TSHIRSCHKY.	An enemy M/V 800 tons BERNHARD VON TSHIRSCHKY entered Alderney at 1145/27 with valuable cargo on board. 6 A/C of 801 Squadron armed with 500 lbs. sap bombs are to destroy forthwith. (Plymouth 1315/27 to H.Q. 19 Group). Six Skuas of 801 Squadron have been ordered to attack enemy M/V in Alderney. Ship reported to have valuable cargo on board. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1401/27).
Patrols.	2 Aircraft fitted with A.S.V. is carrying cross-over patrol from 2100 to about 0100/28th between 048° 32'N., 005° 53'W. and 047° 25'N., 004° 50'W. Flares may be dropped till 2359/27th clear of own force. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1837/27 to D.20). The following two cross over patrols will be flown tomorrow. Cross over patrol by Sunderland A/C from Sullum Voe as follows, from 1500/28 to 2015/28. Cross over patrol by Sunderland A/C from Reykjavik as follows, from 1100/28 to 2000/28. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2243/27).
Illumination of Minelaying A/C.	Successful experiments along Suez Canal emphasize necessity for early trial of floodlights at Harwich, Thames Estuary, and Humber. (Air Ministry, 1920/27). (See Mediterranean).
Bombing Restriction.	Request bombing restrictions between 48° and 50° N., and 4° and 6° West. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2031/27 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE MERMAID (Bombed 26/3.).

Reported drifting helpless with engine-room flooded in 058° 25' N 010° 15' W., at 2200/26.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock. 0010/27.).
Request you sail ZWARTE ZEE with all despatch to assist. Tug BRIGAND and WINDERMERE are also proceeding.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock. 0029/27 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.).
ZWARTE ZEE is to R/V trawler THIRLMERE at 0900/27. THIRLMERE will escort ZWARTE ZEE to assist EMPIRE MERMAID.
(C. in C. W.A. 0206/27.).
Received at 0610. May last a little longer but not much.
(Port Patrick Radio 0610/27.).
Sinking, require immediate assistance, urgent.
EMPIRE MERMAID T.O.R. 0630/27.).
Departure Tug ZWARTE ZEE.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0700/27.).
SUNDERLAND leaving Sullom Voe 0800 to endeavour to locate EMPIRE MERMAID and assist her.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0732/27.).
Am proceeding with utmost speed to assist.
(DIANELLA 0816/27.).
Cancel previous orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0828/27 to ZWARTE ZEE.).
At 0600 EMPIRE MERMAID was reported in 057° 48' N., 011° 40' W. If not in contact search in this direction. Air search is being made. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1143/27 to BRIGAND.).
Report forthwith your p.c. and s. and whether you have made contact with EMPIRE MERMAID.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/27 to BRIGAND).Your 1220/27. Position 058° 17' N., 010° 40' W. course 225° speed 12 knots heavy easterly sea. BRIGAND 1405/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock. Arrived position given your 1256/27 and have searched vicinity without result. Have contacted WINDERMERE and BRIGAND in vicinity who state they are also looking for EMPIRE MERMAID. In view of this have abandoned search and am rejoining convoy O.B.160.
(DIANELLA 1959/27 to C. in C. W.A.).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE MERMAID.
(Bombed 26/3)

Your 1143/27. Area searched till dark. No trace of ship or survivors. Heavy North Easterly sea.
(BRIGAND 2050/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Your 2050/27. Continue search. Further air R/C will be carried out tomorrow. Report forthwith you p.c. and s.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2245/27 to BRIGAND).

CAROLINA
THORDEN.
(Bombed 26/3.)

Enemy aircraft believed to be Heinkel bombed set on fire Finnish CAROLINA THORDEN entrance Thorshaven Bay. Crew passengers rescued, 3 of which wounded.
Enemy aeroplane returned twice bombs fell harmlessly on land. No military damage casualties. Please despatch 10,000 tracer immediately.
(O.C. Troops, Faeroes 0015/27 to War Office)

SOMALI
(Bombed 26/3)

Your 2359/26. Remain with SOMALI and make every effort to save ship with assistance of tug.
(C in C Rosyth 0044/27 to LEDA)
Newton coastguard reports SOMALI blown up and sunk half mile east of Beadnell Point whilst being towed to Budle Bay, Farne Islands.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne. 1257/27).

LEITH.

(Sloop, escorting one M/V) Help. Position 51° 36' N 5° 48' W. Course 110 speed 7 knots.
(LEITH 0911/27)
My 0911. Enemy is bombing.
(LEITH 0914/27)
M 0911. 1 of 2 A/C destroyed.
(LEITH 0926/27).
Air attack imminent of LOCAL (1 M/V escorted by LEITH.)
(Plymouth W/T 1006/27).
Your 0926. There are indications that second plane may also have been brought down. Can you confirm.
(C in C Plymouth 1157/27 to LEITH).

Your.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.3.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

LEITH-Contd. Your 1157. Second aircraft appeared undamaged when last seen. (LEITH 1238/27 to C. in C., Plymouth).

Convoy F.S. Even Am being shadowed by two enemy aircraft ARENA Two, in 52° 15' N., 1° 57' E. COTTESMORE 1133/27)

FARADAY (Bombed 26/3) My 2131/26 FARADAY is a ground on Long Point one mile north west of St. Anne, main deck awash at H.W. Ship burnt fiercely all night. Cable tanks were partly flooded. There may be a chance of salving part of cargo.
Salvage officer arriving this afternoon.
According to Yacht VIVA II enemy plane which attacked FARADAY crashed in sea close to ship but this not confirmed by P.W.S.S. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1203/27)
Particulars of attack (C. in C., Plymouth 1409/27)

Plymouth Command. Request for increased Fighter and Surface A/A Escorts. 5. At 1800 on 26th there were 42 merchant vessels excluding 2 ocean convoys, between Lands End and the Smalls with only 2 escorts amongst them. There were only 9 escorts immediately available in the Plymouth Command. These are being worked to capacity as shown in my No 657/M. 264 of 19/3/41.
6. The only measures which would have saved FARADAY are more fighter escorts and/or ensuring that E/A whether they approach high or low are picked up by R.D/F or C.H.L. and dealt with immediately by our fighters. 19 group are doing all they can to provide air escorts and I have already asked in my 712/M 491 of 22"3 that they should be reinforced by 2 Squadrons of Beau Fighters; this is an urgent request.
7. Two other ships, bombed and beached during the day. To allow the extension of the grouping of shipping to cover the Bristol Channel the extra surface escorts requested in my No 657/M 264 and my 1759/26 are required now,
8. It is further requested that the escorts

/for shipping.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMAND.

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth Command. Request for increased Fighter and Surface A/A Escorts. (contd.)	for shipping between Portsmouth and Dartmouth may be provided in future by C in C Portsmouth to release two escorts now for the dangerous route north of Land's End. (C in C Plymouth 1409/27).
Shetlands. Skaw A M E Station bombed.	My 2045/26. A further attack was made by single E/A on A M.E Station Skaw at 0830 Two bombs dropped but no damage or casualties reported. E/A was engaged by Lewis Gun fire but without apparent effect. (A.C.O.S. 1205/27.)
BEINISVOR sunk.	Faeroes Smack BEINISVOR sunk by near miss from single enemy aircraft at 1800/26 in approx 61° 40' N. 04° 37' W. Crew landed at Thorshavn in another Faeroes Fishing Vessel. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1245/27).
Unknown ship attacked.	Automatic A.A. A.A. heard 1344 G.M.T. strength 2 bearing from G.L.D. 020° (Lands End 1548/27) A.A. A.A. Station sending Spar of St. Govans light vessel and automatic A.A. A.A. strength 3 bearing 020° from G.L.D. (Lands End 1607/27.)
MENESTHEUS. (BOmbed 26/3)	My 1430/26. Damage as follows; Will be repaired locally and ship can continue to operate. (R.A.M.L. 1628/27).
Raft in Irish Sea.	Master of Dutch M/V DEPA reports picking up raft in 54° 02' N 03° 54' W at 1715/26. Description. Had been hit by M.G. bullets. (F.O.I.C. Belfast. 1657/27).
Enemy A/C shot down by Destroyer off Milford Haven.	27/3 Destroyer reported enemy A/C shot into sea 1000 hours. 1443 H.Q.F.C. reported two rafts picked up by destroyer which destroyed E/A. 1445 hours rescue operations cancelled. (10 Group 1700/27 to H.Q.F.C.)

LITTLE EMMA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LITTLE EMMA — (Faeroes fishing vessel). Reports single enemy aircraft dropped eight bombs near her in 063° 44' N. 007° 30' W. at 1730/26. No damage. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1731/27).

Clyde. Air-Raid damage on 20/3. — My 2314/20. Further reports on prduction of affected yards are as follows - (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2037/27).

KNOLL (Bombed 26/3) — My 1947/26. Reports indicate ship afloat, in safe position at present, and can be salved. Crew standing by in charge of Chief Officer. (C.in C. Plymouth 2229/27).

Milford Haven. PALMERSTON MEG MERRILIES OUD BEIJERLAND damaged. — 6 ships have been attacked by enemy aircraft approximately between St. Govan's and St. Annes between 1730 and 2100 this evening.
1. PALMESTON Salvage vessel Swansea to Milford Haven towed in damaged and beached inside haven.
2. EDENDALE destination unknown undamaged.
3. MEG MERRILIEES being towed in destination unknown. Damaged.
4. FELSEPA from Oban for Barry Roads undamaged.
5. OUD BEIJERKANDdamaged inside Haven being pumped by tug SEINE probably have to be beached.
6. One unknown ship and A/P trawler WELBECK assisting, who was herself bombed but undamaged. It is not certain number 2 and 4 were definitely attacked.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2246/27).

Mining

Operation GX. — Admiralty's 1326/26. If practicable ABDIEL should be loaded and ready to proceed by 1300/27. Report estimated time.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0059/27 to ABDIEL).
Your 0059/27. Ready to sail about 1300. Mines cannot be prepared by that time. 4 hours additional in harbour essential for this purpose. (ABDIEL 0912/27 to C.in C. Plymouth).
ABDIEL will be required to sail about 1300/28. (C.in C. Plymouth 1241/27).
Operation GX is to be carried out tonight. If weather unsuitable Capt.(D)5 has discretion to postpone operation.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1253/27 to Capt. D.5).
Sailed 1736 INTREPID IMPULSIVE ICARUS 1758 KELLY KELVIN JACKAL KASHMIR.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1847/27).

/ Operation GY ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.3.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Operation GY.

Your 1326/26. Concur (ii) intend that ABDIEL carried out this lay on the night 28/29.
(iii) Consider it desirable for a further lay (position) to be carried out.
(iv) Propose ABDIEL return to Milford Haven to reload on completion of first lay and carry out second lay proposed before proceeding to Cowes.
(C. in C., Plymouth 1235/27)
Particulars. (C. in C., Plymouth 1941/27)
See Operations Volume.
1. Your 1233/27. Paragraph 3. Concur.
2. Paragraph 4. Second operation should be carried out by 20th D.F., loading at Milford Haven after completion of operation G.X.
3. ABDIEL should proceed to Cowes after completing first lay.
(V.C.N.S. 1829/27 to C. in C., Plymouth).

Explosion under HOPETARN

British ship HOPETARN on arrival at Portland, M.E. reports that on 8/3 when in 53° 36' N., 03° 38' W., in 18 fathoms 2 explosions occurred beneath the ship thought to be due to accoustic mines. No apparent damage to ship. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1723/27).

Humber 3 mines exploded.

At 0145/26 a mine exploded close to A.S.I.S. YARMOUTH TRADER anchored in 270° Killingholme High Light 6 cables. YARMOUTH TRADER had just dropped a second anchor. At 1840/26 a mine exploded spontaneously in 048° No 10 Elbow Buoy 4½ cables. At 0800/27 approximately a mine exploded close to Dutch ship AILOTH outward bound in position 3 miles east of Humber L/V.
(P.O.Humber 1901/27)

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU.

Report from reliable source on 26/3 states SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU have entered Brest with a convoy of English ships. The following are known:- ROYAL CROWN, EMPIRE INDUSTRY, GRANLI, CHILEAN REEFER, MANGKAI, BRITISH STRENGTH SILVER FIR, ATHELFOAM, SAN CASIMIRO, POLYCARP, DEMETERTON. They reckon about 200 prisoners ends. Graded B.3.
Comment. Although it is known SAN CASIMIRO was scuttled it is possible source learnt the name through the capture of the Master. All other ships are known to have been attacked or could have been in a position to have been attacked.
(D.D.I.C. 1244/27).
My 1244/27. It is not clear from original French text whether report refers to actual British Merchant ships or their crews only having arrived in Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 1828/27).

M/V and Escort off Ushant.

Following has been received from Duty Officer 53 Squadron begins:- - Merchant ship and two escort vessels 5 miles west of Ushant Head 330 speed 8 T.O.O. 1146 - Ends.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1315/27).
My 1315/27. At 1410 position of same Force was 048° 40'N., 004° 35'W., course 080° 14 knots.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1743/27 to S/M's Area A).
One M/V with two escorts reported 5 miles West of Ushant course 330° at 1145/27, and then again in 48° 40'N., 04° 35'W. course 080° 14 knots at 1410/27.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1745/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth.)

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch Fishing Boats.	Information re Dutch fishing Boats (some thought to be German manned) graded B.2. from escapers:- (D.N.I. 1731/27).
3 Transports.	Three transport vessels of 12000 tons each reported leaving Mouth of Elbe at dawn 28/3 for assembly in the Netherlands. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2222/27).
Enemy surface ship.	D/F at 2151/27 bearing of German surface ship was 006° 2nd class. (F.O.S. B.C.S. 2341/27 to Admty).

Technical.

Oiling at Sea.	My 1204/26. Request you will also give consideration to the following method which has been tried. (4th S.L. 1808/27 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Code Words.	Admty. Gen Message. 188 AZ of 26/3. Add following description to convoys mentioned. (Codes for B.B. D.S. S.D. and E.C. Convoys). (D.S.D. 1304/27 to Admty.Gen.Message 192 AZ. Home) (See Special Summaries Folder).
S.C.24.	On time at R/V two stragglers. Gale 10/11/3. All ships arrived with exception of WESTERN CHIEF not yet accounted for. (D.T.D. 1120/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Cancellation of Distress messages.	Admty. Message "EV". Importance of adhering stricly to procedure for cancellation of distress message made in error as outlined in A.M.S.I.268 para.2 is emphasised. Failure to do so leaves Naval Authorities with misleading information leading to unnecessary movements of British warships. Ref: A.M.S.I. 268 and Admty. Message "DV". coded message cancelling original report referred to in para.2(b) should be profixed "DR". Para 3 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1154/27 to G.B.M.S. all areas).
H.G.56.	Your 1924/21. KENYA should remain with convoy H.G.56 as long as fuel permits, if possible as far as the North Channel. (D.O.D.(H) 1254/27 to C.S.10).
A/C Danger Area.	My 1850/3. Enemy aircraft are particularly active between Helwick and St. David's Head. Every effort is to be made to ensure that ships proceed through this area in darkness. If proceeding to Milford Haven they should arrive at sunrise. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2209/27 to N.C.S.O's etc.)

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Advice of Important cargoes.

Ships carrying especially important cargoes have been sailed without provision of extra precautions which would have been taken had attention been called to their particular importance.
Action is being taken to ensure that departments responsible will inform local Naval Authority when shipment of special cargoes (such as gun mountings, ammunition etc.) is intended.
N.O.I.C. or F.O.I.C. concerned should draw the attention of their C.in C. to the shipment. C.in C. will inform Admty. whenever they consider it desirable.
(V.C.N.S. 2224/27 to All C.in C's etc., at Home).

Radius Routes for M/V's in W.A. Command.

In order to make more economical use of Coastal Command aircraft it has been decided to establish daily fixed routes on radii of 125 miles from 58° 58'N., 06° 45'W. and 150 miles from 55° 35'N., 07° 00'W. and to route all inward and outward bound independentl sailed ships 5 miles to the southward and northward respectively of one of thes radii.
Convoys will not necessarily proceed in or out on the radius for the day but will be routed by the radius most appropriate to their ocean route and the U/Boat situation. Details.
(A.C.N.S.T. 2334/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SHERWOOD.	My 1650/24. SHERWOOD delayed by defects. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1111/27).
WINCHELSEA.	Has 2 major defects, as follows. (WINCHELSEA, 1500/27).
COMITATUS.	S.A.Trawler COMITATUS has completely destroyed her S.A. Type A. gear by striking bottom while crossing Tay Bar today. Expected out of action for about three weeks. Ship herself undamaged. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1555/27).
BRITTANY.	(Netlayer) Was in collision with wooden jetty in Methil docks Fairway at 1415/27. Holed above water line, not making water but unfit for sea. Ship unable to proceed to dock for 72 hours. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1620/27).
AGAMEMNON (Minelayer). CASTLETON (Destroyer).	AGAMEMNON and CASTLETON were in collision this morning. The following damage being sustained. Propose AGAMEMNON to operate at approx. two thirds capacity. CASTLETON can steam in sheltered waters with safety. (R.A.M.L. 1631/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD	Your 1646/26. In view of extreme shortage of labour at Gibraltar, see My 1916/14/1 (?) do not intend to dock SHEFFIELD on this occasion. (A.S., Gibraltar, 1106/27 to Admty.).
PANDORA to R/V. CAIRNDALE.	PANDORA sails at 2000/28 routed through 032°N 014°W and 031° 20'N., 016° 30'W to R/V with CAIRNDALE in position 'Pedestal' during daylight/3. Object of PANDORA while in company with CAIRNDALE is to sink any Raider which attempts to attack. PANDORA can remain at sea about 25 days and will return Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1216/27 to S.O. Force H).
A/C crew rescued by Spanish Ship.	3 interned airmen (names) leaving 28/3 Madrid by air Spanish IBERIA passenger aircraft. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1730/27 to Madrid).
SPARTA, LISBOA, LIVORNO (German)	Arrival SPARTA and LISBOA departure LIVORNO for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2200/27.)
Enemy Unit.	By D/F at 2151/27 bearing of German surface ship was 006° 2nd Class. (F.O.C.N.A. 2341/27, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MEMNON survivors, CEVENNES, KILISSI.

Following from Navy Dept. from Dakar 23/3. Two members of crew of M.V. MEMNON landed at Dakar by KILISSI. Second life boat with section of survivors reported following coast attempting to reach Gambia. British authorities Bathurst informed. Arrived CEVENNES from Morocco with general cargo and KILISSI from South with Bananas. Latter continuing voyage to North. (N.A. Washington, 1105/27). (MEMNON was torpedoed 11/3).

REPULSE, FURIOUS.

F.O.C.N.A., 1736/26 (? unless you) receive further information that other destroyers will be provided to meet you, you should leave Convoy in time to proceed West of Canary Islands.
(C.-in-C., S.A. 1205N/27, to REPULSE, FURIOUS).

Allied S/M's.

My 118 G 1045/9/12 is cancelled.
(C.-in-C., S.A. 1210/27.)
F.O.C.N.A's 1736/26. Between lat. 30° N. and 25° N., there has so far been no sign of U-boat activity east of Island of Palma. Between lat. 25° N. and 15° N, all U-boat activity during March has been west of 20° W. Unless you have other information, REPULSE and FURIOUS should be routed east of Canary Islands.
(V.C.N.S. 1831/27 to C-in-C., S.A., F.O.C.N.A.

GUNNY

Norwegian GUNNY due Pernambuco 14/3 from Durban has not arrived there. Have you any news of her in 974 areas?
(S.O.(I).Freetown, 1230/27, to S.O.(I), Kingston, N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

ASPHODEL

A.S. Gibraltar 2026 (ASPHODEL completes 29/3), request you sail ASPHODEL for Freetown as soon as completed.
(C.-in-C., S.A., 1301N/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/ Italian ships ....

MOST SECRET

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Italian Ships, B. Aires.

Captain of Italian M.V. here states that all Italian ships have received orders to prepare for sea.
(N.A., Buenos Aires, 1621/27, to D.N.I.)
Following are in harbour:-

CAPO ROSA	-	4,699 tons
CERVINO	-	4,363 "
GIAN FRANCO	-	8,181 "
MARI STELLA	-	4,862 "
MONTE SANTO	-	5,850 "
PRINCIPESSA MARIA	-	8,918 "

(D.S. 571, 29/3.)

LECH, Italian M.V's.

Following report from Bahia (begins). Domschke German ship agents have warned their launch to stand by for next few days to attend LECH. This may be ruse since launches can be obtained at short notice (Ends). Santos reports Italian ships there appear raising steam.
(S.O.(I), Montevideo, 1903Z/27, to Admty.)

Captured Norwegian Whale Catchers.

Following obtained from Norwegians from whale catchers intercepted by SCARBOROUGH on 13/3. (My 1335/14 refers) -
SOLGLIMT, PELAGOS, OLEWEGGER and 11 catchers captured 14/1 and 16/1 in about 59°S. 2° 30'W. by raider known as No. 33 or PENGUIN. Appearance similar to Indian Ocean Raider No. 16 (details). SOLGLIMT and PELAGOS sent North on 24/1. DUQUESA, captured by SCHEER 18/12/40, was met on 31/1. Her prize crew transferred to whalers and ship sunk. Whalers fuelled from OLE WEGGER about 17/2 in approx. 20°S. 17°W. then proceeded North in pairs. Raider parted company on this date. Catchers fuelled from 11000 ton German tanker, possibly NORDMARK, in approx. 27°N. 42°W. on 6/3. A raider in company with tanker resembled SANTA CRUZ. Definitely a fruit ship with very fine lines forward. Raider had mining ports in stern.
No. 33 said to have operated off Madagascar and to have mined. Hobart Straits and to have rested for four weeks in Southern latitudes before capture of whalers. If true she may have been responsible for attacks S.E. of Madagascar in August and September and for either NOWSHERA and PORT WELLINGTON or for MAIMOA and PORT BRISBANE.
(D.D.I.C. 1943/27 to C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., S.A., etc.)

MOST SECRET

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

FRISCO. — Un-assessed report from Ceara states that Italian FRISCO has received clearance papers for Oslo and will leave during next 48 hours.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 2003Z/27, to Admty.)

MULBERA. — Your 1727/26. MULBERA sailed W.S.6. See my 1623/8, and for other ships that sailed besides those reported in my Vesca 2016/8.
(N.C.S.O., Freetown, 2130/27 to Admty.)

MAURITIUS, S.L.69. — My 1419/27. Proceed as soon as fuelled to join S.L. 69 before dark/28.
(C. in C., S.A., 2151N/27, to MAURITIUS).
(MAURITIUS arrived Bathurst 1400/27 - S.O.I., Freetown, 2041N/27.)

MOST SECRET

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

TRIUMPH, ROVER.

My 2205 to TRIUMPH and my 2209 to ROVER. Proceed with utmost despatch to establish offensive patrol by dawn 28/3 as follows. TRIUMPH within 20 miles of position 180° Anti Milo 20, routed through 036° 10', 026° 25', 036° 18', 025° 17', ROVER within 20 miles of Cape Drepano, Suda Bay through 033° 10', 023° 25', 035° 00', 022° 45', thence through Kithera Channel.
(Capt. S.1., 0027/27, to TRIUMPH, ROVER).
See 1739/27.

1 man U-boat captives, Suda Bay.

Your 1930/26. What nationality are the prisoners?
(1st S.L., 0342/27, to C. in C. Med.)
Reply: See 1845/27.

JUNO.

My p.c. and s. 186 CMC 22 X10 204 30.
(JUNO, 1005/27, to C. in C. Med., VALIANT, V.A.2 Med.)

Widening of Canal for EAGLE to pass.

My 1921/12 and your 1219Z/26. Canal Company estimate date of completion is now 8/4 but is subject to modifications further signal will be made as soon as firm date can be given.
(S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1019/27, to C. in C., E.I.).

Enemy Air Attacks FLAMINGO, AUCKLAND.

Scale of air attack in Mediterranean is increasing very rapidly. Yesterday A.S.22 was twice attacked, once by as many as 50 JU 88. Would it be possible to spare the 2 heavily armed escort ships FLAMINGO and AUCKLAND from Red Sea Force?
CARLISLE has only one shaft and COVENTRY can only operate in fine weather as permanent repairs to her bows have not yet been possible.
(C. in C., Med., 1043/27, to Admty.)
See also C. in C., E.I., 1440Z/27.

YORK.

Your 1822/26. Turrets are out of action through lack of power. One could be worked in local control by retaining ILEX alongside to supply but intend (? all available) destroyers to be ready for sea at immediate notice.
(YORK 1051/27, to C. in C., Med.)

/ OGADEN .....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

OGADEN (Italian)	Due to leave Naples (Napoli) for Libya on 26/3. Cargo probably aviation spirit in drums. (Comdr. S.l., 1107/27, to RORQUAL, URSULA).
LE TRIOMPHANT) LEOPARD)	Suggested employment. (Head of M., 1122/27 to C. in C., Med.) (See Med. Vol.).
Distinguishing marks.	1045/18/1. As from 0001 G.M.T./28, H.M.Ships at sea are to display a white square of canvas with two red bars fore and aft. B.N.A. Athens please inform me if Greek Ships will conform. (C. in C., Med., 1135/27.)
Malta Report.	Up to 1600 hours 27/3. Enemy kept a standing fighter screen of 2 and sometimes 3 formations of 3 to 6 aircraft mostly 10 to 20 miles east of Malta, but at times covering north and south Approaches, from dawn to 1615 hrs. Tactics probably to intercept reconnaissance aircraft from Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, no T.O.O./27.)
1st B.S., FORMIDABLE to proceed to Westward.	My 1814/26. I have now decided to take 1st B.S. and FORMIDABLE to sea after dark tonight to proceed Westward south of Crete. Force C will accordingly not be sent to join you, being required to screen battle fleet. Convoy A.G.9 will only be turned back sufficiently to be to Eastwards of battle fleet at dawn and will then resume passage. If no developments have taken place R.V. with me in 034° 10'N., 023° 50'E. at 1700/28. (C. in C., Med., 1219/27, to V.A.L.F.)
Appreciation and Dispositions.	It is suspected that the enemy intend a surface raid into Aegean against our convoys and it is certain that intensive air operations North and South of Crete are intended 28th. Following dispositions are therefore being made: (a) Force B, 7 C.S., GLOUCESTER, ILEX, HASTY, HEREWARD, VENDETTA after fuelling at Suda Bay p.m./27 to be in position 034° 24'N. 024° 10'East at 0630/28. (b) Force A, 1st B.S., FORMIDABLE, and available destroyers (? leave) Alexandria 1900/27 and proceed Westward on course about 300°.

/ (c) .....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Appreciation and Dispositions (contd.).

(c) Force D, JUNO, JAGUAR, DEFENDER at short notice in Piraeus a.m./28.
(d) Convoy A.G.9 being turned back along track to get to Eastward of battle fleet at dawn/28 and will then resume previous route.
(e) F.A.A. Maleme standing by with fighter and Swordfish armed with torpedoes.
(f) R.A.F. R/C of Italians ports and of area Q R S to Greek coast arranged today. R/C for tomorrow. One aircraft on line R X X 200 miles from Agria Grabusa. One aircraft in section A.A.W. between 270° from Agria Grabus and W. coast of Greece. One aircraft in West Aegean west of 024° 20'E. One aircraft in South Aegean West of 026° 40' E. commencing from Kaso.
(g) F.A.A. reconnaissance from Maleme as ordered by R.A.(A), Mediterranean. F.A.A. from FORMIDABLE will search to N.E. at dawn to maximum depth.
(h) R.A.F. bombers and Blenheim fighters may operate in Aegean.
(k) Submarines. ROVER to patrol off Suda Bay from dawn/28. TRIUMPH S.W. of Milo from dawn/28.
(l) Greeks have been requested to clear South Aegean of ships and (? convoys). Greek destroyers warned to be at short notice.
(m) CARLISLE at Suda Bay to augment A/A. defence.
(n) K. Patrol and other local patrols withdrawn within gun defences of Suda Bay.
(o) Sailing of G.A.8 postponed.
(p) 3 enemy cruisers and 1 destroyer sighted at 1220 in 036° 30'N. 016° 40' E course 120°.
(q) Detached units should not seek action wi unreasonable superior force by day, but maintain touch.
(r) If situation does not develop forces A and B R.V. 1700/28 in 034° 10'N., 023° 50'E.
(C. in C., Med., 1423/27, to Med Fleet.)

CALCUTTA.

Leaves Suda Bay at 0130/28 passing anti Kithera Channel at 0500/28.
(Capt. S.1., 1627/27, to ROVER).

/ Escort of .....

MOST SECRET

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Escort of Malta Hurricanes.

Your A.493/25/3. Admiralty are unable to provide second escorting A/C for each formation. Although Sunderland has some advantage over land A/C for escort purposes it is left to you to decide whether Sunderlands or land planes are detailed as second escorting A/C. Hurricanes themselves would provide NM fighter defence for escorting A/C.
(Air Ministry, 1630/27, to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.)

REGENT.

Leave patrol by same route as when Northbound so as to cross lat. 040° 00' not later than 0400/2 and arrive at Malta dawn/5 (route). Greek forces in the Adriatic will keep clear from 1800/31 to 0600/2.
(Capt.S.1., 1721/27, to REGENT)

Two ships torpedoed by PARTHIAN.

PARTHIAN attacked an escorted convoy East of Cape Dell'Armi at 1150/16. 3 torpedoes fired at 6000 tons merchant ship and 3 at 10,000 tons tanker. Result unobserved owing to counter attack but 2 explosions heard probably hits on merchant ship followed later by another explosion thought to be hit on Tanker. Consider 2 ships were hit.
On 19/3, TRUANT entered anchorage of Burat el Hsun at night to attack small tanker observed during day. Torpedoes fired at 400 yards missed under as tanker had unloaded. One appears to have hit lighter or pier.
(C. in C., Med., 1735/27.)

Enemy Forces. Orders to ROVER, TRIUMPH.

My 0027/?27. Enemy forces are reported to be approaching Aegean from West. Total strength unknown but three cruisers reported at 1220 in 036° 00', 016° 30' course 120° speed 15. At daylight 28/3 all British and allied warships and merchantships will be clear of Aegean but may re-enter later. Heavy air activity is to be expected. Ref. operation B.S., para. 19, bring into force condition A.
(Capt.S.1., 1739/27, to ROVER, TRIUMPH.)

/ PERICLES .....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

PERICLES (torpedoed 26/1).	There were no casualties. (S.B.N.O., Suda Bay, 1835/27).
Prisoners captured at Suda Bay.	Admty, 0842/27 to C. in C., Med. all prisoners are Italian. Names and ranks. All are uninjured. (S.B.N.O., Suda Bay, 1845/27.)
Human torpedoes.	Description (S.B.N.O., Suda Bay 1855/27).
Illuminating A/C. Minelayers, Suez Canal.	R.A.F., M.E. report experiments to illuminate enemy Minelayers with ground flares most successful. Details. Report emphasises necessity for early trial of floodlight installation at Harwich. Also suggest that Middle East scheme be tried out in Thames Estuary and Humber. Request your views. (Air Ministry, 1920/27 to Fighter Command)
Convoy S.U.4.	Your 0522Z/27. Request sailing of S.U.4 may be postponed until 3/4. Request route and R/V. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1929/27 to C. in C., E.I.) Concur (C. in C., E.I., 1052Z/29).
Suez Canal. Anti-Mining.	Request report of progress being made in anti-mining operations in the Suez Canal with special reference to:- (a) Lookout organisation. (b) Problems of locating mines, diving trawling and counter-mining. (c) Number of sweepers of various types available in the canal. (D.M.S. 1945/27 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal).
Libya Convoy Report.	Following received from secret source graded C.O. Convoy of six ships transporting German troops and tanks due to leave Salerno near Naples for Libya 27/3 or 28/3. (D.N.I., 2012/27, to C. in C., Med., C.O.I.S., Alexandria) See also 2350/27.

/ Italian Plans.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Italian Plans.	A.T. 1510/27 and 1007/26. As Italians seem interested in whereabouts of Force H., they may be contemplating a bombardment of Malta as a revenge for Genoa. (1st S.L., 2020/27, to V.A.(M)). My 2020/27. Another possibility is a reinforcement of Dodecanese by troops, air personnel and supplies. (1st S.L., 2132/27, to C. in C., Med.)
AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, ISIS, ENCOUNTER.	C. in C., Med.'s 1043/27 and C. in C., E.I's 1414/27. Suggested that AUCKLAND and FLAMINGO should be transferred to Med. Fleet and that ISIS and ENCOUNTER should relieve them temporarily in Red Sea Force, their passage northward being accelerated as much as possible. If C. in C. Med. agrees then C. in C., E.I. should release AUCKLAND and FLAMINGO as soon as possible. Would it be possible to assist C. in C. E.I. to meet present threat to Suez by the temporary loan of one or more gunboats from the Mediterranean? (1st S.L., 2033/27 to C. in C., Med., C. in C., E.I.).
UTMOST. Operation "Purge".	Proceed with despatch to Area K 035° 20', 011° 10' - 000 - 30 - 281. 6 transports carrying German units expected to leave Salerno 27/3 or 28/3. Possibility operation 'PURGE' at Malta, remain on patrol until recalled. (Comdr. S.I., 2350/27 to UTMOST).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.3.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

HERMES, ENTERPRISE.

Colombo arrival 27/3 0355Z, Force T consisting of HERMES, ENTERPRISE.
(S.O.I., Colombo, 0404Z/27 to Admty.)

U.S.10.

Ships available for on carriage.
(S.S.T.O., India (Bombay) to D. of S.T., 0745Z/27).

Orders for ISIS and ENCOUNTER.

On arrival at Mombasa 29/3 ISIS and ENCOUNTER are to be sailed for Aden as soon as practicable. Report onward programme repeated to all addressees. Route (a) 002°N. 048°. (b) 011°, 052° 40' (c) 012° 45', 051° 15'.
(C. in C. E.I. 1106Z/27).

Force T.

HERMES and ENTERPRISE are to leave Colombo at 0400Z/28 and proceed Mahe Seychelles via Lardive Channel adjusting speed of advance to arrive A.M./2.
(C. in C. E.I., 1110Z/27 to Force T.)

AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO.

C. in C., Med. 1043/27. I would be glad help C. in C. Med. as suggested provided two ships are exchanged for destroyers. The principal threat in Red Sea is now from at least six Italian destroyers which it is expected will be driven to act more offensively than hitherto. Red Sea Force contains insufficient suitable ships to guard all commitments against possible scale of attack. My 1738/19 refers. AUCKLAND and FLAMINGO are next best ships after destroyers.
(C. in C., E.I. 1440Z/27 to Admty.)

FORT LAMY.

Your 1911/26 FORT LAMY sailed 24/3 for Mauritius reported Vesca number 010.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1500Z/27.)

VILLE DE VERDUN.

Your 1236Z/22. Re interception of VILLE De VERDUN. Nothing seen of French ship VILLE DE VERDUN.
(LEANDER 1501Z/27 to C. in C., E.I.)

/ NIEUW HOLLAND.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 27.5. 1941. Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

NIEUW HOLLAND. My 0602/26 and N.O.i/c. Simonstown's 1626/27. NIEUW HOLLAND is being diverted to Mombasa and may be expected to arrive p.m./28 or a.m./29. Request embarkation of troops may be expedited and ship sailed as soon as possible for Durban after disembarkation at Mogadiscio.
(C. in C. E.I., 1846Z/27 to S.O.Force W)

Troop Transports. Ref. A.C.N.B's 0538/1, my 2341/3, C. in C., E.I's 1500/9 and C. in C. Med's 1040/18. It is approved for QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, ILE DE FRANCE and MAURETANIA and AQUITANIA to proceed to Suez. Further instructions will be given concerning NIEUW AMSTERDAM also as to disposal of ships earmarked for on-carriage of troops ex U.S. 10 from Ceylon. To provide adequate protection C. in C. E.I. may adjust date of leaving as necessary.
(V.C.N.S., 2202/27 to C. in C.s. E.I., Med.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ELSA ESSBERGER, ERMLAND, (German) One Italian M.V.	Kobe Arrival 25/3 E. ESSBERGER. Present 26/3 a newly painted ship possibly ERMLAND. Present 26/3 an additional Italian Ship about 2500 tons slender yellow funnel not yet identified. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0711Z/27).
FALCON, evacuation from Chungking.	Asking for his co-operation evacuating officers and men of FALCON from Chungking to Rangoon via Burma Road. Details. (C.in C. China, 0835Z/27, to Govr., Burma).
Japanese intentions etc.	C.in C. China, 1001Z/27 see Lion copy.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Refitting Yards.	Armuk 26, 26/3. My Armuk 13 and 19. (Refit of MALAYA) Navy Yards selected are as follows - DELHI, New York, RESOLUTION, Philadelphia. MALAYA, New York. ILLUSTRIOUS, Norfolk. FURIOUS, Norfolk. LIVERPOOL, Mare Island, Any material for the ships should be despatched to their respective yards. Your 0045/18, request DELHI be informed as well as other ships named. President has instructed Navy Department that the fact that these ships are to be taken in hand in Navy Yards is to be kept Most Secret until he has made public announcement of the fact himself. T.O.O. 1515/26. (A.R.M., Washington, 0305/27, to Admty.).
QUEEN ELIZABETH) RODNEY) REVENGE)	To arrive Halifax. (1st S.L., 1031/27 amended 0048/28). See HOME COMMANDS, Movements.
Germans in MAGELANES	Following from reliable source. Spanish MAGELLANES sailed 26/3 from New York for Lisbon with 181 Germans including 34 men. Helen Zimmerman believed carrying official documents. 21 Roumanian seamen also on board. (N.A. Washington, 1050/27, to Admty.).

/ MALOJA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.3.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

MALOJA — Your 1257/26. MALOJA delayed by defective feed pump and will not be able to sail before 0800 Q/1/4. Ship will arrive off Partridge Island at 1300 Q/3/4 unless otherwise desired. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1221/27 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

U.S. Bases Agreement. — Anglo United States Bases Agreement will be signed 1530 today. Governor Bermuda has text of General Agreement and all amendments. Governor of each Territory has lease and special provisions applicable to his territory. Your 1301/20 is under consideration. (Head of M. 1409/27 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Fuelling H.M. Ships in U.S.A. — B.N.A. Washington 1459/27 see Lion Copy.

T.C.10. — In order to allow time for loading of GEORGIC sailing of T.C. 10 should be adjusted to (date) (A.C.N.S.(H) 1715/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.).

Explosion under HOPETARN — N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1723/27 see Home Commands (Mining).

"Q" Report, WINKLEIGH — 2205 G.M.T. following intercepted 600 metres QQ QQ 045° 47' N. 047° 12' W. S.S. WINKLEIGH suspicious 2200/27. Weak signals and interference, no bearing possible. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1807/27, to Admty.). Following received from CAMPERDOWN, begins: 2253 G.M.T. following intercepted from s.s. WINKLEIGH. Cancel my QQQQ 2200/27 Ends. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1957/27, to Admty.).

MOORBY's report ? raider. — British MOORBY reported to Cape Race that at 2100 G.M.T./26 in 45.35 N. 44.26 W. she sighted a volume of black smoke on horizon possibly vessel on fire also second vessel in close proximity heading away Eastward apparently at high speed. Vessels too distant for description to be obtained. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1811/27).

/ Enemy Unit. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.3.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Enemy Unit. By D/F at 1214/27 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit was within 200 miles of 53° 00' N: 30° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1909/27, to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. A.W.I., etc.).

Newfoundland Bases. To enable battleships to proceed further to the Eastward with their convoys it is considered that certain anchorages in Newfoundland might be used as fuelling bases. Requested you will give consideration to this matter and signal proposals.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1947/27 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

Bofors Guns in M.V's 40 mm. Borfors A/A guns are being mounted in a number of British vessels now sailing independently or in OB Convoys.
A military guns crew is embarked with each gun. As only a limited number of guns are available it is desired as far as possible to keep them mounted in vessels in North Atlantic. Under consideration to fit them in vessels proceeding through Panama Canal, the vessels being ordered in to Bermuda to hoist out gun and disembark crew which would subsequently require embarking and the gun mounted in homeward bound vessels. A small amount of stiffening is required but guns can be mounted on existing H.A. gun stiffening if no H.A. gun is already mounted. Priority would be given to vessels without H.A. guns.
Report whether this can be arranged.
(V.C.N.S. 2038/27, to Capt. i/c Bermuda).

Refit of LIVERPOOL. ARMUK. 28. My ARMUK 26 timed 1515/26. Ref. ARMUK 13 timed 1315/20 and ARMUK 19 1415/15 should read 2221/24 and 0506/26 resp. LIVERPOOL should read Mare Island West Coast not repetition not Pearl Island and West Coast. T.O.O. 1330/28.
(B.A. R.M. Washington 2304/27).

Australia and New Zealand.

ALEXANDRE ANDRE Belgian. Re crew trouble.
(D.S.T. Malaya): 2223/27, to D.N.O. Queensland, R.A.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3 9

27. 5. 1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MEMNON (torpedoed 11/3.).

2 survivors landed Dakar by KILISSI. (N.A. Washington, 1105/27.). See South Atlantic.

ERODONA (torpedoed 16/3.).

Hope to arrive Reykjavik with ERODONA daylight /30. Ship submerged from amidships to aft estimate draught aft 60 ft. if stern is still there which is doubtful. Believe forward tank(s) still full of benzine. THAMES has equipment for pumping in equal water off main cook. Observed position 063° 03' N., 020° 10' W.(NOTE: 1915/26 refers) (VISENDA, 1430/27 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.).

S/M's Reported.

0858.

By D/F at 0858/27 bearing of Italian U. Boat from Gibraltar was 310° 3rd class. (F.O.C.N.A., 1027/27 to N.A.Station.). My 1027/27. Further bearings indicate position of Italian U-Boat was between 046° and 047° N., and 012° and 013° W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1611/27.).

0300/23.

S/M. reported off Svortulofr position 64° 52' N., 24° 03' W., at 0300 Z/23 Grade B 2. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1532/27, to Admty.). Estimated U-boat dispositions. Still unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1406/27).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.3.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Watch for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU

HOOD sailed from Scapa this morning to R/V with NIGERIA and FIJI from the Clyde, to take over the Bay of Biscay Patrol from Force H.

The SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were located in Brest this evening by air R/C; one of them is in dry dock.

Convoys H.X. 114 and S.C. 25.

These convoys are approximately 2 days late.

British Air Activity

A Hudson patrolled 60 miles west of Brest last night, to intercept shipping entering or leaving.

2 aircraft of Bomber Command and 5 of Coastal Command attacked Brest last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.3.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

STAFFORDSHIRE was bombed and set on fire in the N.W. Approaches this morning, but is proceeding at 10 knots.

SS ANTWERPEN (Dutch 251 tons) was sunk off Bull Point (Bristol Channel) this afternoon.

Trawler KESTRAL was bombed and damaged this afternoon off Lundy.

Norwegian SS SVINT was attacked 3 times between 1445 and 1700, near the Longships, but had only one casualty. Dutch M.V. DRITTURA reported being machine-gunned at 1600 off Lands End but had no casualties.

Mining

Milford Haven was closed at 0204 and was opened under local restrictions at 1245.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.3.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Attack on Leece

In connection with the Fleet operations R.A.F. made an attack at dawn on Lecce Aerodrome (Apulia) and claim to have destroyed one or two aircraft and damaged 20 others.

Note For the Action between the British and Italian Fleets see 29/3.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U-Boats off Iceland.

I attach great importance to the hunt both by air and surface craft of any U-Boats reported off South and West coast of Iceland. (C.in C. H.F. 1124/28).
If possible I would like 2 or even one destroyers available Reykjavik to operate on any U/Boat reports in the vicinity. (C.in C. H.F. 1126/28 to R.A.D. H.F.).

20th D.F.

It has been decided to keep 20th D.F. in the South for the present. (V.C.N.S. 1323/28).

HIGHLANDER

On arrival Gibraltar you are to join Flag of C.in C. S.A. temporarily till relieved by BRILLIANT late in April. (C.in C. W.A. 1656/27 to HIGHLANDER)

Identification Marks of H.M. Ships to A/C.

Particulars. (V.C.N.S. 1921/28 (A.M. 895.A)
See Operations Volume.

Defence of U.K.

Unified Invasion Orders.

Your 1924/26. Arrangements have been made for unified invasion orders to be produced by C.in C. Nore.
2. Commands concerned are each issuing an appendix to cover points of purely local significance. (D.O.D. H. 1344/28).

Movements.

HOOD.

My 1721/27 is cancelled. (C.in C. H.F.0914/28)

Iceland Faeroes Patrol.

NORFOLK's intentions. (F.O.I.C. (?1st C.S. 1533Z/28).

/ Proposed 2 Destroyers for Iceland. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Proposed 2 Destroyers for Iceland. If circumstances permit detach two destroyers to Reykjavik. ARROW and ECLIPSE suitable if endurance permits.
(S.O. Destroyers 1556/28 to Capt. D.6.)
Situation 2000.
No destroyers have sufficient endurance to comply with your 1556/28 with any safety margin.
(Capt. D.6. 2045/28 to F.O.C. D.F. H.F.).

KING GEORGE V. If it is necessary to proceed Reykjavik for fuel, aircraft and crew ex NORFOLK are to be transferred to NORFOLK.
(C.in C. H.F., 1710/28 to KING GEORGE V.).

Operations.

HOOD
NIGERIA
FIJI
for Bay of Biscay Patrol. It has been decided that an operation in the Western Mediterranean requiring Force (H) is to be put into execution at the earliest possible date.
2. HOOD with 3 cruisers is required to relieve Force H on Bay of Biscay patrol. Instructions for this patrol were given in A.M. 2249/25.
3. C.in C. H.F. is requested to sail this force and inform Admiralty and F.O. Force H when it may be expected to arrive in lat. 50° N. At this time Force H should return to Gibraltar at best speed. (1st S.L. 0019/28).
Details and Orders. (C.in C. H.F. 0035/28)
(See Operations Volume)
C.in C. H.F. 0035/28. Intend to sail 0600/28 passing 000° Butt of Lewis 15 miles at 1300/28 as at present through following positions to reach lat. 050° N. at 1630/30.
NIGERIA and FIJI join me before dark 28/3 or in 056° 32' N. 015° 02' W. at 0900/29. Destroyer will be sent to Londonderry to refuel and rendezvous with HOOD for (?return) passage. Anticipate leaving area of operation (date). April arriving Scapa (date). All times B.S.T.
(B.C.S. 1. 0417/28).
Scapa departure HOOD, ELECTRA, ESCAPADE, TARTAR.
(A.C.S. 0700/28).

/ Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

SOKOL, SUNFISH,) UNION, UNBEATEN,) SEALION, H.44.)	Movements and Orders. (F.O.S. 0031/28, 1416/28) (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 2007/28).
Disposition and Strength of Patrol.	Details. (F.O.S. 1246/28, 1606/28) See Operations Volume.
East Coast Anti E-Boat Patrol.	Weather permitting tonight Friday 3 M Ls are to carry out patrol 5 miles either side of 55 buoy in direction 020/200 degrees. Patrol to be taken up at dark and maintained until daylight. It is important that M Ls should not get to Westward of patrol line. (C.in C. Nore 0957/28) Tonight provide cover for F.N.45 to vicinity Newarp L.F., then return to Patrol KXM (C.in C. Nore 1021/28 to D.16, WHITSHED.) No A/P vessel at No.5 or between No.5 and Hearty Knoll tonight. (C.in C. Nore, 1101/28 to PYTCHLEY, etc.).
Operation QE.	During next moonlight period starting about 3/4 motor gunboat will be operated with an A/S trawler to intercept E boats. Trawler will be stationed as ordered by C.in C. Nore according to information available concerning enemy line of approach motor gunboat to make fast astern of trawler until enemy is detected. Request you will detail one A/S trawler for this duty as it is considered desirable that same trawler should be employed throughout. If necessary (?harbour) patrol may be discontinued when required. As position chosen for trawler and motor gunboat will probably be off Yarmouth it may be expedient to base trawler there while this operation is in force. This operation will be known as Q E. (C.in C. Nore 1246/28).
Jan Mayen.	HONNINGS VAAG left Jan Mayen for Reykjavik 1900/27. VASLA KARI remaining. W/T communication between Jan Mayen and Reykjavik not yet established. (F.O. Iceland 1412/28).

/ Western Channel M.G.B. Patrol. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Western Channel M.G.B. Patrol.

M.G. Bs 43 44 and 48 are to call Plymouth for Rodars and will patrol lat. 49° 40' N. between 04° W. and 04° 50' W. from 2000/28 till necessary to leave to enter Fowey at 0700/29. (C.in C. Plymouth 1749/28).

British Air Activity.

Patrols and Escorts.

Following Patrols and Searches in operation today Patrol U N S T. Escort EMPIRE MERMAID. MOSDALE. AHAROA.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0730/28).
Patrols STAB and TROST and being flown p.m. today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1406/28).

Own A/C fired on by Trawler.

X 434. 28/3. Request you investigate and report on following incident. Report received that Blenheim L.9389 fired on by trawler off Yarmouth at about 1430/24. Aircraft subsequently reported missing.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1715/28).

Albino Units.

X.442 28.3.41. My X.633 dated 13/3. Prohibition on use of present Albino units is cancelled in order to enable Prime Minister's directions regarding experiments at Liverpool to be implemented.
(Air Ministry 1730/28).
Night 26/27. No operations were carried out owing to unfavourable weather.
Day 27/3. 8 Blenheims successfully completed sweep during which one attacked a naval formation of one submarine, 20 E. Boats, 3 probable Destroyers, a Naval Tender and one Motor Launch at 51° 47' N. 3° 18' E. Results not observed.
(H.Q.B.C. 1744/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

FARADAY.

In view of A.M. 1306/25 request report why FARADAY was sailed from Falmouth without waiting for a proper A/A escort.
(1st S.L. 0241/28 to C.in C. Plymouth).
Your 0241/28. Report on loss of FARADAY has already been communicated in my 1409/27. The following are additional remarks.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1337/28).

MEG MERRILEES.
(Bombed 27/3)

My 2246/27. MEG MERRILEES was abandoned 3½ miles N.N.W. of St. Govans light, owing to parting of tow. Search being made to ascertain if vessel is still afloat. If so tug will be sent to tow her in as soon as port is open.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0253/28).
My 0253/28. Vicinity of position has been searched. Nothing found except small boat. MEG MERRILIES presumed sunk.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0945/28).

EMPIRE MERMAID
(bombed 26/3).

EMPIRE MERMAID reported taking to boats 0653 G.M.T. (BRIGAND 0315/28).
If fuel permits proceed to assist BRIGAND searching for EMPIRE MERMAID. If nothing found by dark abandon search and escort Fleet Tug BRIGAND back to base.
(C.in C. W.A. 0756/28 to ACHATES, BOREAS).
EMPIRE MERMAID sighted 1400. Sank 1445 057° 33' N. 012° 43' W. No crew on board. Am proceeding to boats. (ACHATES 1455/28).
My 1455. One boat picked up. Others not in company since abandoning ship 0800/27. Request air co-operation. (ACHATES 1605/28).
My 1453. Both boats accounted for. 19 of crew saved. Am returning to Clyde, BOREAS in Company. (ACHATES 1920/28).

BARONSCOURT
(British,
869 tons)
Bombed 27/3.

Add to my 2246/27. BARONSCOURT attacked by 4 A/C at 2029/27 and badly damaged 2 of them. Vessel is proceeding on passage although slightly damaged herself.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0401/28).
Master of BARONSCOURT reports being attacked by 4 twin engined aircraft when 5 miles N.W. of Saint Govans between 2015 and 2045 on the 27th. 7 bombs and 1 aerial torpedo dropped close to vessel. No casualties caused and only splinters and bullet damage to vessel. BARONSCOURT proceeding to Newport.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 0913/28).

/ Shetlands. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Shetlands.

One Enemy Aircraft 45 miles N. of Unst Course SW. (Lyness 0931/28).
My 0931. 75 miles NW Unst Course West. 200 M.P.H. (Lyness 0956/28).

Convoy F.S. Odd.

Fighters have been despatched to convoy BOOTY. (Nore W/T 1028/28).

STAFFORDSHIRE

(British, 10,683 tons) Bombed in 60° N. 10° 38' W. Main transmitter out of action 1030 G.M.T. (Lyness W/T 1041/28).
Position 59° 30' N. 10° 18' W. Ship ablaze. (Lyness W/T 1225/28.)
One Whitley from 18 Group is being sent to escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1336/28).
Detach one Destroyer forthwith to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1337/28 to WANDERER).
A/C reports STAFFORDSHIRE bombed and on fire. Part of crew still on board in 59° 30' N. 10° 18' W. at 1225. WANDERER expects reach this position at 1730. Request ZWARTE ZEE may be sailed to assist.
(C.in C. W.A. 1457/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Request you sail ZWARTE ZEE with all despatch to assist STAFFORDSHIRE.
WANDERER standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1505/28 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).
Sighted STAFFORDSHIRE in 059° 43' N. 010° 38'W. (WANDERER 1730/28).
Proceed forthwith to assist STAFFORDSHIRE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1744/28 to BRIGAND).

Unknown Ship attacked.

AAAA heard Automatic at 1518 G.M.T. strength 5 bearing from G L D 009° Gonio B bearing from Burnham-on-Sea 315° strength 3. (Portishead Radio: Recd. 1632/28).
Enemy aircraft reported one medium merchant ship damaged 60 miles S.S.W. from Lands End at 1525. (C.in C. Plymouth 1953/28 to Capt. D.5)

AVONSIDE
PORT DEE
(Trawlers)
attacked.

Fishing Trawler AVONSIDE A.9 and PORT DEE A 34 on Passage Faeroes to Aberdeen arrived Scrabster and reported having been attacked by 2 E/A's, probably HE.111, with 8 bombs and M/G Fire near 61° 31' N. 05° 04' W. at 1815/27. Slight damage to Trawlers and 2 slight casualties to crew of PORT DEE.
(A.C.O.S. 1801/28).

/ ABDIEL. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.3.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

ABDIEL — Help Skipper. (ABDIEL 2000/28).

KESTREL (Trawler) bombed. — R.N.O. APPLEDORE reports Trawler KESTREL bombed and damaged N.E. from N. Lunday Light at 1418/28. One man died from wounds. She is unable to steam and is at present in Lundy Roads. (C.in C. Plymouth 2243/28).

SVINT, (Norwegian, 1174 tons) three times attacked. DRITTURA (Dutch, 187 tons) — R.N.O. Penzance reports Norwegian vessel SVINT landed one rating wounded by machine gun fire from enemy Aircraft. Vessel was attacked north of Longships 10 miles at 1700/28. Was previously attacked at 1445/28 N.E. Longships 20 miles, and again at 1545/28. Position not given. Dutch vessel DRITTURA also reports being machine gunned off Lands End at 1600/28. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2315/28).

Mining.

Operation GY. — 20th Destroyer Flotilla proceeding Milford Haven to load mines on completion G.X. E.T.A. 1300/28. (C.in C. Plymouth 0023/28). Operation GY Para. 5. ABDIEL would like passage southward made at 20 knots and to lay at 16 knots. Para. 6, for 0700/29 read 0730/29. Para 7, for 0230/29 read 0330/29. (C.in C. Plymouth 1153/28). Sailed ABDIEL. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1438/28). As you have taut wire measuring gear request you will navigate force. 5th D.F. takes station on you. (Capt. D.5. 1548/28 to ABDIEL). Sailed KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIR, JACKAL 1645. (C.in C. Plymouth 1745/28).

Milford Haven. — Port is closed owing to mine laying by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0204/28). Port is open under local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1245/28).

/ Z.M.E. 26. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Z.M.E. 26. Particulars. To be carried out on night 29/3 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1112/28).

Bristol Channel. At 1623/27 one Red Mine exploded by S.A. Gear 220° distant eight cables from English and Welsh Light Vessel. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1115/28).

Dartmouth Minefield. Dartmouth Minefield is now laid and in operation. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1202/28).

Operation P.W.6. Operation P.W.6 will be carried out tonight, ships sailing 1900. (C.in C. Nore 1228/28). Departures M.T.B's 22. 30 and 34 at 1905. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1907/28).

P.W.7. Intended position of lay (C.in C. Nore 1234/28) See Operations Volume.

Operation G.Z. Arrived 20th D.F. less EXPRESS. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1348/28) Particulars. (C.in C. Plymouth 1403/28) See Operations Volume.

Channel Sweep. On leaving area search on wide front from Needles Channel along 050° 40' N. into Poole Bay. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1519/28 to S.O. 9th M/S F.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Units. By D/F at 2314/27, approx. position of unknown enemy unit probable surface craft, was between 45° N. - 48° N. and 14° - 18° W. (D.D.I.C. 0030/28).
At 0248/28 a D/F was obtained of an enemy surface unit probably a small vessel in the neighbourhood of Brest. (D.D.I.C. 0327/28).

/ North Sea Movement. ....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

North Sea Movement	W/T Intelligence suggests a movement from westwards into the North Norwegian Area. (D.D.I.C., 1100/28)
E-Boats	Special intelligence indicates possibility of E-Boat attack North of 53° N., tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1724/28)
SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU	Two battle cruisers probably SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU+ now in Brest - one in torpedo nets at T.B. Station Rade Abri and other in Western dry dock Rade Abri - dock is wet but many Pontoon - like structures alongside battle cruisers. Boom is placed across entrance to dry dock and gates are closed. Preliminary examination shews no destroyers present. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1920/28 to H.Q.C.C., C. in C., Plymouth 1951/28 to D.5., ABDIEL) (D.D.I.C., 2103/28)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

A/C Danger Area.	Enemy aircraft are particularly active between Helwick and St. Davids Head. Every effort is to be made to ensure that ships proceed through this area in darkness. If proceeding to Milford Haven they should arrive at sunrise. (C.in C. W.A., 1142/28, to N.C.S.O's etc.).
H.X.114 and S.C.25.	Approx. 2 days late. (C.in C. W.A. 1355/28).
Permanent Code words.	Allotted to escorted groups of merchant vessels (C.in C. Plymouth 1923/28) See Summaries Folder.

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MELROSE ABBEY — Ashore off Rattray Head.
(Wick Radio 0351/28).
MELROSE ABBEY now inside bar 1 mile north of entrance to Rover Ythan. Weather conditions render operations impossible. 16 of crew landed by surf life boat from Newburgh.
26 crew are on board and consider they are safe.
Tug ABEILLE IV returned to Aberdeen, and with ATTENTIF standing by to proceed if necessary when weather moderates.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1258/28).
Ship MELROSE ABBEY from convoy E.N. 92 is ashore near Ythan River 057° 18' N. 002° W.
Please send tug to her assistance.
(ULLSWATER 0730/26).

HIBISCUS. — My 1330/25. Requires deperming and thus necessitates programme being retarded by 24 hours. (P.O.I.C. London 1020/28).

FYLLA. (Grounded 17/3) — Refloated 1030 and towed to Southampton. (Salvage Officer, Southampton 1840/28).

GURKHA. — (A) Collision with vessel unknown. Following damage. (R.A.D. 1818/28).

TWEEDBANK. — (British, 5627 tons) Ex E.N.92. Arrived with extensive engine damage.
(N.C.S.O. Dundee 2045/28).

ELIZABETH. — Received 2015 from ELIZABETH. Steering trouble developed again. Have anchored same position. Require tugs to return Barry.
(Burnham Radio 2115/28).
Received 2144 from ELIZABETH. Vessel dragging to two anchors out of searched Channel.
Unable steer. Send tugs immediately.
(Burnham Radio: Recd. 2320/28).

CAIRO — A further tube perforation in forward condenser, the eighth failure in six months, has been reported by CAIRO. (R.A.D. 2130/28).

MENDIP. — Have been in collision with PICTON CASTLE. As far as can be ascertained both ships seaworthy. A/S trawler is in company. Am rejoining convoy. My position 054° 36' 06" N. 000° 38' 08" W.
(MENDIP 2145/28).

GARTH. — No serious damage. Request tug be sent immediately. (GARTH 2325/28).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

REPULSE escort.

Intend to sail FEARLESS (S.O.). FORTUNE FORESTER, FURY as requisite to pass through position 030° 40' N., 016° 20' W., at 0800 zone/31 steering 240° to R.V. with you during daylight as escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0058/28, to REPULSE.).

Operation "Ration".

Cancel my 1910/20. Operation "RATION" is to be carried out as soon as forces are available. All French ships intercepted without ship navicerts should be brought in and their cargo should be immediately reported. (Head of M. 0120/28 to F.O.C.N.A).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 2314/27 indicate.unknown enemy unit probably surface craft between 045°N., 048° N., and 014° W., 018° W. (F.O.C.N.A., 0240/28, to N.A. Stn.).

CITY OF DIEPPE raider.

QQQQ DE GCK 35 30 N., 6 53 West CITY OF DIEPPE suspicious. (Valencia Radio 0520/28.).

Spanish ships carrying Germans.

My 1208/26 refers primarily to vessels trading between Spain and South America via Canary Is. and vice versa.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1114/28. to N.A.S. Station.).

Relief of VIDETTE.

Your 1839N/26. Owing to other commitments it is not anticipated that this exchange can be effected until mid April. Further signal will be made. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212/28, to C. in C.S.A.).

ATALANTA
GIANNA.M
(Italian.).

ATLANTA moored alongside tanker GIANNA.M yesterday, and returned to mooring buoy yesterday evening. Insistent rumour 3 Italian Steamships will leave shortly. (VRUH) No trace of these signal letters. Arrived today war material for Military Authorities also brought over from Teneriffe British Government interned seaplane. Spanish Ship CASTELLO BENISANO arrived with about 950 tons of Welsh coal from Cadiz for Spanish Naval Authority.
(B.C. Las Palmas 1230/28.).

/ FAULKNOR...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

FAULKNOR. FURY. VELOX to Screen Force H, into Gib.	A.M. 0019/28. Intend to sail FAULKNOR FURY, VELOX as requisite to pass through (positions) to rendezvous with you as escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A.1238/28 t to S.O. Force H.).
FLEUR DE LYS. COREOPSIS.	Remain in company with CAIRNDALE till further orders. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/28.).
ASPHODEL movements.	Your 1301/27. ASPHODEL can be ready to sail p.m./30. Requests she may remain ar extra three days at Gibraltar in order to carry out s/s and gunnery practice. If approved propose to sail ASPHODEL as extr excort for H.G.58. parting company from convoy on 5/4 and proceeding thence to Freetown. (? F.O.C.N.A. 1630/28 to C. in C S.A.).
A/C Rescued by Spanish Ship.	My Tel. No. 15, T.O.O. 1100/25. aircraft was (carried) Las Palmas in Spanish War Transport CONTTRAMAESTRE CASADO A.M./28. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1805/28, to N.A. Madri
CONTE DI SAVIOA. REX.	Fairly reliable information that CONTE DI SAVIOA and REX left Naples 27/3 with German troops for Tripoli routed along north coast of Sicily C.2. (N.A.Madrid 1921/28, S.O.(I) Gib. 2332/28.).
FLEUR DE LYS. COREOPSIS.	Return to Gibraltar with CAIRNDALE. Follow same route as outward voyage. (F.O.C.N.A. 2136/28.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Reinforcements.	For protection of convoys and A/S operations (1st. S.L., 0113/28 to C. in C. S.A.). See Operations Volume.
FRANCO MARTELLI.	(Italian tanker) applied for clearance on morning tide 28/3 for Rio de Janeiro. This was not granted, but it is possible ship may sail this afternoon. 27/3 Italian plane, on pretence of testing engines, made extensive flight to seaward. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 0855/28, S.O.(I) Monte Video 1418Z/28.).
GRANICOS.	Overdue shipping my 1108/28 Greek GRANICOS arrived Durban. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0932B/28.)
Inspection of Port Etienne by DELPHINIUM.	Your 0013/21. Anchorage at Port Etienne w inspected by DELPHINIUM on 24/3 from a distance 5 miles from coast. No submarines were seen. Medium size oil tanker was present looking as if most of her cargo had been discharged. It was not practicable to ascertain whether anything was alongside shoreward side of tanker. Signal station ordered stop on approach. DELPHINIUM signalled was seeking sheltered water to make good defects. Was inside about 2½ hours, do not think was firdd on, no aircraft seen. W/T Station was heard later making long signalto Dakar Saint (corrupt group) movements of destroyers reported is result. (C. in C.S.A. 1049N/28.)
HIGHLANDER to join C. in C.S.A.	C. in C. W.A. 1556/27. [illegible].(1656/27 Intended.). Request you will sail HIGHLANDER for Freetown as required suggest mi accompany HIGHLAND MONARCH NIZAM and NAPIE (C. in C. S.A. 1127Z/28 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/GUNNY.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

GUNNY. S.O.(I) Montevideo's 2139/21. Norwegian GUNNY arrived St. Thomas West Indies 23/3. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1604/28.).

DRESDEN. FRANCO MARTELLI FRISCO. DRESDEN has permission to leave Santos Babitonga held temporarily owing to having too much oil. Italian FRANCO MARTELLI at Pernambuco applied for clearance papers to-day. Italian FRISCO at Ceara has received clearance papers for Oslo. Ships in all ports active but Chief of Naval Staff tells me crews of Italian Ships are refusing to put to sea. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1715/28.).

FRANCO MARTELLI. My 0855/28. Italian tanker has cleared for Oslo and is now, 1730/28, leaving harbour. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1730/28, S.O.(I) Monte Video 2101Z/28.).

DRAGON. BULOLO. S.L.70. On completion exercises DRAGON is to act as escort to convoy SL70 until relieved by BULOLO about p.m./2 then return to Freetown. It is possible you may be required to remain longer. (C. in C.S.A., 1953/28, to DRAGON.).

NORDERNEY. My 2154Z/26. Para reports German ship NORDERNEY left Quay and anchored in stream. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 2021Z/28.).

Falklands Defences. Your 2245/12. Following has been decided:- (D. of L.D. 2022/28 to C. in C. S.A.).

BIRMINGHAM. Your 1137/25 and my 1423/22. BIRMINGHAM now arrives Freetown 1/4. Will sail P.M. same day and overtakes convoy 3/4 about 18° N. (C. in C. S.A., 2029/28, to Admty.).

/Refits.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Refits in U.S.A.	Facilities are now available for three A.M.C's to be taken in hand for refit in U.S.A. Adty's 0104/28, has approved the refitting of CANTON in U.S.A. Administrative Authorities are requested to report the names of any other A.M.C's requiring refit at an early date. (D.O.D.(F) 2059/28, to C. in C. S.A., C. in C.E.I., R.A., 3 B.S.). Reply from C. in C. E.I., 1806Z/31, None.
Suspicious Portuguese Tanker, 17/3.	A.C.M.857A of 19/3. BULOLO 2112/17/3, is being passed to you. Request whether Portuguese GORGULHO was on voyage reported and whether any further information can be obtained. BULOLO's signal indicates vessel as small tanker. Lloyds Register of Shipping indicates general raider with appearance of tanker. (C. in C. S.A. 2141/28 to F.O.C.N.A.).
DOMINE (Spanish).	Left Fernando Po 23/3 for Las Palmas. One German woman on board. Chief steward or passenger Soulol may have German Consul's mail. If encountered ship is to be boarded and German Consul's mail removed, result of search being reported to Adty., and C. in C. S.A. by signal without breaking W/T silence. DOMINE is not repetition not to be diverted for search. (C. in C. S.A. 2238/28 to S.A. Station.).
BRITANNIA survivors.	Following is a repetition of my 2027/28. (Originally recd. corrupt.). CILICIA reports has 63 BRITANNIA survivors on board ex Spanish Ship BACHI. Raider reported similar to PIONEER but has (?tier) form bow and straight stern and funnel nearer bridge. CILICIA expects to arrive Freetown 0700/30. (Ends.). (C. in C. S.A., 2357N/28 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets

3 Cruisers
3 Destroyers
sighted
(Southern force)

Following has been read.
My 0802. Three cruisers unknown number destroyers bearing 010° 13 miles 127 34° 15' N., 24° 7' E. (ORION 0812/28)
My 0812. Class of enemy ships indicated 2- 8 inch cruisers, 2- 6 inch cruisers, three destroyers. (ORION, 0824/28)
My course and speed 160° 16 knots. (ORION, 0832/28)
My 0824. Three cruisers three destroyers bearing 034° distance 16 miles, course 160° position 132 34° N., 24° E., 23. (ORION, 0837/28)

Enemy
Alters course
for home.

My 0824, enemy has turned to port: my position 141 34° N., 24° E., 33 (ORION, 0859/28)
My 0859. Enemy's course 300. (ORION, 0903/28)
My 0859. Three Cruisers, Three Destroyers bearing 322° distance 14 miles, Course 265, enemy speed 28 knots, position 128° 34° N., 24° E., 33' 33°. (ORION, 0936?/28)

Blenheims
to search.

X. 7844 A.773 28/3. 6 Blenheims carrying out armed search from centre 35° 04 N. 22° 20 E., at 1330 hours local time. (H.Q.B.A.F., Greece 1015/28)
My 0936. 3 Cruisers 3 Destroyers bearing 304° distance 18 miles, course 320°
My position 158 34° N., 24° E., 4 based on detached unit at 1000 (ORION 1029/28)
One unknown vessel bearing 002° distance 16 miles course unknown, my position 281 34° N. & 24° E., 10 based on a detached unit a 1000 (ORION 1058/28)

Battleships
reported.

2 Battleships. My position 281 34° -24° E., 10 based on a detached unit at 1000 (ORION, 1059/28)
Position of Enemy Cruisers and destroyers 34.05 N., 23.45 E. (Mediterranean A/C, 1111/28)

VENDETTA
Breaks down

Engine trouble my position is 164- 34° 26' N., 25° 7' E., course 310°, speed 24. Request instructions, (VENDETTA, 1130/28, to C. in C., Med.)

/5 Cruisers.....

MOST SECRET

28.3.1941.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets, Contd.

5 Cruisers 3 Destroyers sighted. (Northern force)	P,C and S of 5 enemy Cruisers 3 Enemy Destroyers 34° 55' N., 23° 24' E., Course 280° speed 25 knots. (Mediterranean A/C 1135/28) P,C. and S of enemy (2 BS 3 CR 3 DR) 290° 25 knots. Correct my 1133 to 2 Battleships 3 cruisers 3 destroyers. (Mediterranean A/C 1143/28)
ORION's position	My P, C and S 34.19 N., 24.10 E., 120° 30 knots. (ORION 1145/28)
2 "CAVOUR" Class	2 CAVOUR 15 inch, 2-6 inch, 4 destroyers. (Mediterranean A/C 1145/28) P,C and S of 5 cruisers 3 destroyers 34.55 N., 23.24 E., 280°, 25' Time of observation 1035. (Med.A/C 1150/28) Position of enemy is 34.57 N., 23.16 E., based on a fix at 1200, enemy are in single line ahead, bearing 290° (Mediterranean A/C 1210/28) Correct my 1210/28 position 34. 57 N., 23.26 E., by fix at 1200 enemy destroyers are bearing 295° from Admiral (Med A/C 1210/28)
Enemy Submarine	I am over enemy S/M in position 34.57 N., 23.16 E., Bearing 295° based on a fix at 1200. (Mediterranean A/C 1210/28)
C. in C. Med's Position.	My P, C and S 114 34 N., 24° E., 36, 270° 24 knots. (C. in C., Med., 1215/28 to 2 in C., Med.)
Greek Destroyers porceeding.	Seven Greek Destroyers proceeding at once through canal to await oiler between Cephalonia and Zante. (N.A.Athens, 1215/28 to C. in C., Med.)
Enemy Course.	Enemy's course and speed 315° 25 knots 5 destroyers screening enemy battle fleet. (Med. A/C 1218/28) Are you in touch with Enemy Battle Fleet? (C. in C., Med., 1220/28, to F.O. 2 inC Med.)

/Two enemy...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

Two enemy 8- inch cruisers, one 6 inch cruiser three destroyers in 033° 54' N., 024° 14' E., course 300° to (?320) speed 28 knots at 0935. Own cruiser and destroyer(s) in contact. Own Battlefleet to South East. (N.A.Athens, 1231/28 to S.B.N.O., Suda Bay.)

Enemy Aircraft — 3 Hostile aircraft in Sector A. (C. in C Med., 1253/28 to 2 in C. Med.)

Enemy position 1300. — P, C and S od enemy 34. 56 N., 22. 32 E., 295° 25 knots my position 235° (?Spada) 73 miles obtained by fix at 1300. (Med. A/C 1301/28)
Following has been read. Search to Northward. (Mediterranean A/C 1305/28)
A. 155 aircraft reports at 1210, 2 CAVOUR, 1 POLA 2 ZARA, 5 destroyers, position 34.57 N., 23.16 E., considered reliable. (R.A.F., C/S Med. A/C 1310/28 to C. in C., Med.)

T/B attack ordered — If possible a dusk Torpedo Bomber Attack should be carried out on Enemy Forces working on Flying Boat report. YORK pass to Maleme. (C. in C., Med., 1318/28 to YORK, F.A.A. Station, Maleme)

JUNO — Maintain Kithera patrol. Enemy forces are in your vicinity. (C. in C., Med., 1323/28 to JUNO)

VENDETTA — Your 1130 Return to Alexandria. (C. in C., Med. 1326/28 to VENDETTA)

P, C and S of enemy 35.03 N., 22.26 E obtained by fix at 1300, 300° 30 knots (Med. A/C 1344/28)

/BONAVENTURE.....

MOST SECRET

28.3.1941.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

BONAVENTURE
COVENTRY

BONAVENTURE sailed 1300 at 25 knots. DECOY and WATERHEN sail 1700 at 20 knots all for position 033° 20' N., 025° 00'E thence if no other orders received to Suda Bay. They have your 1331/27. Intend to sail off Alexandria section of A.N.23 at 0600/29 with COVENTRY and HERO as escort to join Port Said Section. TURBO sails for Mersa Tobruk at 1900 escorted by SOUTHERN MAID. (R.A.Alexandria, 1350/28 to C. in C., Med.)

F.A.A.
Attacks.

3 Swordfish attacked cruiser with torpedoes at 1205 in position 288 34° N., 24° E., 48 one possible hit. Second striking force being despatched against battleship in position 300 34° N., 24° E., 33 course 280° at 1230. (Maleme 1415/28)

Shadow enemy cruiser(s) and destroyer(s) estimated to be in 34 05N32 50 E., at 1115. (Med A/C(?) 1420/28 to Med A/C (?))

No enemy has been sighted between bearings 34° and 260° up to a distance of 60 miles from Admiral - average visibility 15 miles. (? Mediterranean 1440/28)

A, 159. Navy believe enemy force battleships cruisers about 50 miles S.E. of your force. R.A.A. confirm. (mediterranean A/C 1445/28)

JUNO

Leave patrol at 0600/29 and proceed to Piraeus. Sail A.G. 8 from Piraeus p.m./29 (C. in C., Med. 1500/28 to JUNO)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

Enemy Position 1500

V.12 265. 3 Cruisers, 5 Destroyers in position 35° 25' N., 21° 44' E., course 300° speed 30 knots. Based on a fix at 1500. (Mediterranean A/C 1503/28)
P. C and S of 3 cruisers 2 destroyers 34.42 N., 21.47 E., 300° 30 knots. (Med. A/C 1539/28)
3- 6 inch Cruisers bearing 156 from Main Fleet. (Med, A/C 1550/28)

Enemy previously reported are of type indicated 2 SAVOIA 1 DIAZ (Med. A/C 1550/28)

V14 Enemy previously reported are 3 cruisers 155 main fleet. (Med. A/C 1550/28)

Enemy's course and speed 325° 30 knots (Mediterranean A/C 1600/28)

Enemy Cruisers are in single line ahead or formed on a line of bearing 3 ? 5 degs. (Med. A/C 1605/28)

2 Enemy forces confirmed.

AQ67 confirm - presence two enemy forces my A165 refers. (Mediterranean A/C 1645/28?

A. 168 search for battleship may be with force in 34 42 N., 21 47 E., (Med. A/C 1700/28 to A/C Med.

V. 19 YA 167 force A 36 01 N., 20 32 E., 300 30 Force B 37 14 N., 21 20 E., course 325° speed 30 knots. (Med. A/C 1700/28 to Med. A/C)

V20 425 A 3609N 2019E X 17 300 30 ? 1730/28.
Note: Incompletely decoded.

/LITTORIO....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

LITTORIO Battleship sighted.

1 Enemy Battleship 3 Enemy Cruisers 7 Enemy destroyers bearing 270° distance 10 miles course 310° my position 300 35° N 22° E.,(Med A/C 1827/28 to Alexandria)

3 cruisers, 4 destroyers bearing 265 14 miles course 170° my Position 305 35° N 22° E., 30. (Med. A/C 1831/28 to Alexandria)

Following has been read.
My 1827 Enemy course and speed 300° 15 knots, Enemy previously reported are LITTORIO and 3-6 inch cruisers.
(WARSPITE A/C 1841/28 to Alexandria)
My 1831 3 Enemy cruisers.
(WARSPITE A/C 1844/28)

Enemy Concentrating

Total enemy force concentrating and consisting of 1 Battleship 6 Cruisers 11 Destroyers P.C.S. Enemy Battlefleet 291 35° N., 22' E., 41 300° 14 knots.
(WARSPITE A/C 1855/28)
Following has been read:
Enemy battle fleet is in 5 columns.
Columns of Enemy Battle fleet reading from Port to Starboard or van to rear consist of:
3 NAVIGATORE CLASS
3- 6 inch Cruisers
? (1 LITTORIO CLASS
  (2 NEMBO
3- 8 inch class & 2- 6 inch Cruisers
Enemy's anti-S/M screen consists 4 vessels.
(WARSPITE A/C 17 1914/28)

2 unknown bearing 205° deistance 10 miles course unknown My position 285 35° N.,22° E 2 based on reference Position of Admiral at 1800 G.M.T. (ORION 1915/28)

Enemy course and speed 295° 15 knots.
(WARSPITE A/C 1920/28)

/Enemy's....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

Enemy's course and speed 230° 15 knots. (WARSPITE's A/C 1930/28)

F.A.A. Attack

Enemy engaging our aircraft and making smoke bearing 303° distance 9 miles am concentrating 284° 35° N., 22° E 30 from Admirals 1800 reference position. (ORION 1930/28)

Searchlights ready flash in bearing 285° 12 miles UN 290° 35° N., 22° E., 37? from Admirals 1800 reference position (message corrupt) (ORION 1950/28)

One unknown ship 240° 5 miles apparaently stopped. My position 013° 35° 21' N., 21° 18' E., (35° 18' N., 21° 13' E) ORION 2040/28)

Blenheims attack

A 784. 23 Blenheims attacked enemy ships between 1445 and 1655 hours. Following results claimed. Probably 2 direct hits 1500 hours on one cruiser not confirmed 2 direct hits with (? 500) pound S.A.P. bombs on cruiser 1650, black and yellow smoke emerging for 10 minutes (?alongside) ship stopped. One bomb on destroyer at 1630 hours with 500 S.A.P. bomb. Many near misses and considerable interference with movements of enemy reported. Position of cruiser when stopped was 035° 31' 021° 25'. From H.Q., B.F. Greece. (B.N.A.Athens 2043/28 to C. in C., Med.)

My P C and S 013° 35° 21' E., 25 310° 15 knots R. 18. (ORION 2059/28)

My P C and S 005° M.B. H.S. 27 R 18 300° 20 knots. (ORION 2115/28)

/F.A.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

F.A.A. Attack 1940.

Air striking force attacked at 1940 in position 286 35° N., 22° E., 35. Enemy fleet consisted of one battleship seven cruisers about ten destroyers. One hit observed others probable. Two FORMIDABLE aircraft missing. (Maleme 2205/28 to C. in C., Med.)

My P.C and S 342° 35° 34' N., 21° 18' E., 340° 20. Am keeping clear to North of own flotillas. All cruisers in company. (Nore W/T 2215/28)

Am engaging enemy cruisers and destroyers (C. in C., Med., 2232/28 to F.O.C., 2nd i/c Med.)

Greek Naval Forces

Greek C. in C., is awaiting your orders. (B.N.A. Athens 2347/28)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (General).

UNIQUE.
UPRIGHT.

Surface and proceed into Harbour.
(S.O.(S) 1044/28 to UNIQUE, UPRIGHT.)

Mediterranean.

PAGANINI
SARDEGNA
LIGURIA
SAN GIORGIO.

Athens wireless on 27/3 states informatic from prisoners supplies confirmation of sinking in Adriatic carrying troops. PAGANINI was acknowleged by Italian Press in July as a loss by fire. SARDEGNA and LIGURIA often claimed by Greeks since early January. No previous report of loss of SAN GIORGIO. (D.S.570).

Submarine to be sent.

Your 2250/25. I am grateful for these reinforcements. "U" Class can easily accommodate at Malta.
(C.in C. Med., 1124/28).

Orders for
RORQUAL
URSULA
UTMOST
UNIQUE
UPRIGHT.

Leave present patrols p.m./30 to arrive Malta 0700B as follows. RORQUAL through 036° 35' 012° 00' to Ionian Sea 2/4 URSULA through 036° 30' 012° 20' and 035° 44' 014° 20' to Ionian Sea. 1/4 UTMOST through 035° 20' 013° 00' and 035° 37' 014° 07' to Ionian Sea 1/4 UNIQUE and UPRIGHT leave Malta as in my 1131/27. UNIQUE will not operate North of 036° 20' until after 0001/31.
(Comdr. (S) 1125/28).

RECORDER.

RECORDER is not to start work until further orders. If she has sailed she is to be recalled to Mersa Tobruk.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1156/28 to S.O. Force I).

ROVER.
TRIUMPH.

ROVER proceed into Suda Bay to assist YORK. TRIUMPH return to former duties.

(C.in C. Med. 1428/28 to Capt: S.1)

MOST SECRET.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Arrivals and Departures Suda Bay.	27/3 arrivals CARLISLE, JAGUAR. Departures JAGUAR, CALCUTTA, ILEX, HASTY. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1535/28).
Arrivals and Departures Alexandria.	27/3 arrival CARLISLE, JAGUAR, Departure JAGUAR, CALCUTTA, ILEX, HASTY. (Alexandria, 1535/28).
CARLISLE.	Defects made good. Ready for survice. (CARLISLE 1546/28).
Germans in Roumania, S/M's building.	My 1135/26. Probably some 100 German Naval Officers in Constanza on 22/3 but comparatively few ratings. At Bucharest 30 or more German Naval Officer Numerous reports of arrival of alleged Submarine parts by rail, but do not consider anything positive proved yet. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1800/28). Comment by N.I.D. Report of personnel may well be true. Considered some personnel will be used to man or partially man vessels of Roumanian Navy. Also believed to be some German Speed Boats at Constanza. Arrival of Sub-marine parts at Constanza most unlikely. There are at least two Roumanian Submarines building at Galatz from parts supplied from Germany.
F.A.A.	2 Swordfish No.775 Squadron (F.A.A.) transporting torpedoes leave Dekheila 070 tomorrow via El Adem E.T.A. Maleme 1530. (R.A.Alexandria 1815/28).
YORK (torpedoed 26/3).	My 1521/26. Estimated that with full salvage resources and work shop facilities it would take at least four to five months uninterrupted work to make ship fit to be towed. Without such facilities salvage considered impracticable.

/(b)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

YORK (torpedoed 26/3). (Contd.)	No prospect of restoring ship's electrical supply. (d) Intend to send majority of ships company to Alexandria at first opportunity retaining enough for close range A.A. defence. (YORK 1916/28 to C.in C. Med.)
Manning of Fleet.	2nd S.L. 1915/28 See Lion Copy.
Orders for ROVER and TRIUMPH.	Cancel my 0027/27 TRIUMPH proceed forthwith routed North of Cristiani and Soorrana Island to comply with memo. S.O.7. ROVER remain at present patrol area Eastward of 024° 30' during the night proceeding on the surface (? to) arrive end Suda Bay (? at) 0700/29. Proceed into Suda Bay and act under orders of YORK. (Capt: (S) 1919/28 1921/28, 1925/28).
CONTE DI SAVOIA.	Fairly reliable source informs me that CONTE DI SAVOIA and REX left Naples 27/3 with German troops for Tripoli routed along North Coast of Sicily. (C.2.) (N.A.Madrid, 1921/28 to C.in C. Med. etc)
Enemy Convoy.	Convoy of 4 enemy motor vessels of 5000 tons each and one (? ten) thousend tons: motor vessel escorted by three destroyers FOLGORE class and three Dorniers passed Kelibia Road Light steering south at 1300B/28.S.O(I) Alexandria pass to C.in C. Med. Assessed A one. (S.O.(I) Malta, 2008/28).
Convoy A.G.9.	Greek A/S escort Anson will meet you 1200 and Blenheim Fighters 1400/29. (N.A.Athens, 2203/28 to Escort of A.G.9).

MOST SECRET.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force T.

Colombo departure 28/3 0410Z Force T consisting of HERMES, ENTERPRISE. (S.O.(I) Colombo 0426/28).
My 0802/28 Part Two final. (ii) Prisoner also reported WARTENFELS as the only other German ship to have sailed. (apart from COBURG) and another source reports her as having arrived (? Fusan). (iii) A Ramb Class Italian Merchant Ship, probably RAMB II, is reported as having arrived Kobe (together with?) Italian Sloop ERITREA. (iv) Photographic air reconnaissance of Massawa March 27 indicated another ship (? might have) sailed and owing to fall of Keren a general exedus might now be attempted. (v) Capt: on Staff Alexandria is requested to inform M I C E. 0802Z/28.
N.B. Part II only received.
Part I has been called for.

Troop Transport, NIEUW HOLLAND.

Your 1846/27. Consequent on capture of Harrar 27/3 requirements for transport of 2200 military ranks to Berberra from Mombasa now more urgent than transport of 3300 to Mogadishu for which NIEUW HOLLAND (corrupt group) now diverted. Army urgently requests NIEUW HOLLAND may take Berbera contingents. Further requests NIEUW HOLLAND subsequently takes Mogadishu contingents or that another ship be made available as soon as practicable.
(S.O. Force W. 0803Z/28 to C.in C. E.I).

WARTENFELS.

S.N.O.R.S. 2041/26. (2058/26 intended) Chief Censor Mauritius reports that WARTENFELS has arrived Diego Suarez.
(C.in C. E.I. 0804Z/28 to Admty).

WARTENFELS.

Naval Censorship indicates German steamer WARTENFELS now at Diego Suarez.
(D.D.I.C. 1335/28 to C.in C. E.I. etc).

MOST SECRET.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TAIREA.	Sailed 1600/28 to Berbera calling Mogadiscio to land 10th Belgian C.O.S. E.T.A. Berbera daylight, 3/4. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 1618/28).
B.S.22.	Bombay ships are detailed to transport Indian Brigade from Port Sudan to Suez and are expected to proceed Port Sudan in B.S.22, TAKLEWA, SLAMAT, MENELAUS, KHEDIVE, ISMAIL, QUEEN ADELAIDE, CUSTODIAN, PRESIDENT DOUMER, expect to be able to release ships on completion. Agreed. (S.T.O. 2011/28 to G.H.Q. M.E.), (Egypt)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ESSBERGER MUNSTERLAND ERMLAND . (German).	Kobe arrival 27/3 ESSBERGER. My 0711/27 closer inspection suggests this is MUNSTERLAND, ERMLAND. (Capt: O.S. Singapore, 0503/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.3.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.M.C.S. OTTER lost.

B.U.P. message from Halifax, N.S., states 2 officers and 17 men of R.C.N. lost when H.M.C.S. OTTER Lieut. D.S. Mossman, R.C.N., a converted yacht, was lost off Canadian coast in a sudden fire. 22 others of crew picked up by merchantmen. (The Times, 28/3).

MONSERRATE (German)

At Callao, said to have cargo of cotton to be taken to a Mexican port for transhipment to a Japanese ship, is reported by Press to have delayed sailing owing to known presence of British forces. (D.S. 570).

RODNEY, H.X. Convoy Escorts.

My 0058/26 and 1031/27.
If no further information of enemy forces is received RODNEY is to proceed to Halifax. RODNEY will then be available for escort duty with next convenient Halifax convoy.
Under present circumstances it is considered that first half of the Atlantic crossing is the more likely period for enemy attack.
In order therefore to increase number of convoys which can be provided with battleship escort, R.A.3 is requested to arrange that battleships will leave their convoys between 35° and 40° W.
R.A.3 requested to inform Admiralty of his proposals for escorts based on the foregoing information. (1st S.L., 0047/28 to R.A.3, RODNEY).

MALAYA Repairs.

Your 1021/26. Concur. New York.
Particularly necessary to prevent it being known that ship has been damaged.
(V.C.N.S. 0049/28 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
MALAYA is to leave Trinidad as soon as possible after fuelling and carrying out any essential modified repairs, and proceed to New York. Route via Mona Passage, thence direct to New York.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1012/28, to MALAYA).

CANTON Refit.

Cancel A.T. 1533/21. Approved for CANTON to refit in U.S.A. Refitting port will be communicated when known.
Desired that during refit ship should be prepared for fitting of a catapult.
It is intended to fit the catapult at first opportunity in U.K. 0104/28.

/ Suspicious Ship, 13/3. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Suspicious Ship, 13/3.	British KING EDWARD on arrival Philadelphia reports having sighted most suspicious vessel believed to be enemy on 13/3 in position 048°N. 042° W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1031/28).
KOSS Ships.	Your 1505/24. KOSS 5 KOSS 4 KOSS 16 and KOSS 17 arrived here 1130 G.M.T./27. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1116/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax). Your 1505/25. KOSS 18 arrived here 0900 G.M.T. today. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1122/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).
10 coastguard cutters.	Please hasten reply to my 1550/14 and 0036/20. (D.N.I. 1605/28 to N.A. Washington).
FORT DE FRANCE PANEMA POINTE A PITRE	St. Thomas Departure 27th March French Ships FORT DE FRANCE PANEMA POINTE A PITRE. Former loaded 500 tons Diesel latter 550 tons fuel oil. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1216/28).
Refitting FURIOUS	UKARM 22. Your 2221/24. FURIOUS will not be refitted in America. As far as can be seen the principal defects and approximate dates of arrival in American East Coast ports could be as follows.
MALAYA RESOLUTION ILLUSTRIOUS DELHI LIVERPOOL CANTON	2. MALAYA, RESOLUTION and ILLUSTRIOUS to have first priority. DELHI, LIVERPOOL, CANTON second priority. A further signal will be made in regard to other two A.M.C.s. (Controller 1351/28 to N.A. Washington).
SIRIKISHNA	(British) overdue at Halifax since 6/3. Request any information available. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1533/28).
LECH, NORDERNEY, FRANCO MARTELLI.	Letter intercepted at Trinidad states LECH, NORDERNEY, and 7 Italian ships at Pernambuco intend to sail possibly in Convoy under protection of 2 German Battle Cruisers in South Atlantic. FRANCO MARTELLI loaded 14000 tons diesel oil, other ships agricultural produce. Alternative rumour movement of ships is intended to divert British Men-of-War from North Atlantic. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1630/28 to Admty. etc.).

/ U.S. Coastguard Cutters. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

U.S. Coastguard Cutters.

Your 1606/28. No decision yet reached. Official request for ten cutters has been made to Mr. Hopkins by Mr. Purvis pointing out that the matter is vital and asking that as many as possible of those released should be of the (? 20) knot type. Decision likely to be favourable.
(N.A. Washington, 1721/28, to Admty.).

Sydney, ice conditions.

Your 1259/27. Sydney Harbour is not likely to be navigable before 1/5.
Ships should be able to arrive Father Point by 20/4 unless ice conditions in Cabot Strait are very bad. Normal peace time ice reports will be broadcast to ships.
Ships may be routed north of Sable Island after 13/4. It is hoped to commence assembling convoys at Sydney about 1/6.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1742/28, to Admty.).

EMPIRE SILVER

My 1554/22 (overdue shipping). Cancel reference to British ship EMPIRE SILVER.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 2335/28).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.3.31941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ERODONA (torpedoed 16/3)

ERODONA sinking gradually. Have taken off boarding party. THAMES continues to tow towards Reykjavik but will endeavour to beach her if conditions become critical. Position 125° Reykjanes Light 5 miles. (Scapa W/T, 2000/28).

Submarines Reported.

0052.

D/F at 0052/28 position of Italian U/B probably homeward bound, was approximately 47°N. 7° W. (D.D.I.C. 0131/28).
One enemy submarine bearing 220° distance 4 miles position 63.30 N., 21.50 W. (VISENDA, 0730/28, to Iceland).
Enemy S/M sighted by VISENDA at 0630Z (?370) 30 miles from Reykjanes. Aircraft and A/S trawler from Iceland proceeding to position. (F.O. Iceland, 0730Z/28 to Northern Patrol).
VISENDA with damaged ship and rescue tug in company reported enemy submarine approximately in position 30 miles 135° from Reykjanes light at 0630Z. Aircraft will attack if weather suitable. Are destroyers available? (F.O. Iceland, 0735/28, to F.O.C. 1 C.S.).
Submarines reported at 0730/28 in position 220° 4 miles from 63.30 N., 21.50 W. NESTOR pass to CIRCASSIA. (C.in C. W.A., 0837/28, to NESTOR, ANTHONY, CIRCASSIA).
My 0730. U-Boat seen to dive immediately. No contact made. Am continuing screening tug and tow. (VISENDA, 0900/28, to F.O.I.C. Iceland).
U/B sighted by H.M. Trawler VISENDA at 0730/28 B.S.T. Position 63° 26' N. 21° 56' W. (D.D.I.C. 0919/28 to CIRCASSIA and 1033/28 to Orkneys and Shetlands, W. Approaches, H.Q.C.C.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
Reduction in number of U/Bs operating considered temporary and renewed activity is expected in 2 or 3 days.
No fresh evidence of patrols in Bay of Biscay. (D.D.I.C. 1237/28).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat Campaign
3 ships
torpedoed in
H.X. 115.

Convoy H.X. 115 was attacked by U-Boat early this morning in the N.W.Approaches. The following ships are reported to have been torpedoed:- HYLTON, GERMANIC, LIMBOURG.

It was evident this evening that either Convoy H.X. 115 or O.B. 302 was being shadowed and reported by U-boat, two or more of which were near. KING GEORGE V sighted a U-Boat 10 miles distant at 1755 in 60° 15' N., 19° 57' W.

The Clyde-Iceland Ferry convoy was reported as being attacked by U-Boat this morning.

VISENDA (trawler) and THAMES (Tug) this evening brought into Reykjavik the SS ERODONIA, torpedoed on 16/3 in the North Atlantic in H.X. 115.

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

At 1917 D.F. bearings indicated that an enemy surface warship, possibly ADMIRAL SCHEER+ homeward bound, was near convoys H.X. 115 and O.B. 302. C. in C. H.F., ordered KING GEORGE V who was proceeding to Scapa after leaving Convoy H.X. 115, to intercept if fuel permitted.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night owing to the weather.
A force stood by today to attack the German battle cruisers in Brest, but weather over the target was unsuitable for attack, and attack planned for tonight was cancelled on account of bad weather.

Routine patrols by Coastal Command were greatly curtailed today on account of bad weather. Special patrols were flown west of Brest to locate the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU if the should break out.

Three attempts to carry out P.R.U. sortie at Brest failed owing to bad weather. All night patrols and operations were cancelled for the same reason.

Battle aircraft from Iceland carried out A/S patrols south of Iceland.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Plymouth Command

To meet the increasing scale of enemy air attack in the Plymouth Command C. in C's Portsmouth and Western Approaches are each to lend Plymouth Command one destroyer and LEWES, previously allocated to Rosyth is to be retained after working up.
M/S Trawler SIR JOHN LISTER was machine-gunned off the Lizard at mid day and had one casualty.
An unknown ship was attacked off the Scarweather at 1900.

Attacks on Shipping off East Coast.

VERDUN and Convoy F.S. 49 were attacked twice this afternoon off Sheringham, but no ships were hit.

PYTCHLEY and Convoy F.N. 45 were attacked 26 miles 310° from the outer Dowsing L.V. but were not hit. Fighters obtained contact with the enemy aircraft.

SS ALBERT C.FIELD made a distress message at 1347 off Yarmouth, whilst a straggler from F.N. 45 and is believed sunk.

WALLACE and Convoy F.N. 46 were attacked off the East Coast several times this evening and tonight and British tanker OILTRADER was sunk off the coast of Suffolk.

Trawler KIMBERLEY was bombed and sunk off Grimsby this evening. SS EFFRA appears also to have been attacked but was not damaged.

Attacks in N.W.Approaches

SS VENI, a straggler from Convoy S.C. 25 was attacked in the N.W.Approaches this afternoon (200 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operations
P.W. 6
G.Y.

3 M.T.B's from the Nore last night carried out a mining operation off the Belgian coast.

ABDIEL last night laid mines off Brest, escorted by 4 destroyers.

SS GRENAA was sunk by magnetic mine at Bellamy's Wharf (London) about 1230 today.

Mines were detonated today at the Nore.

The convoy anchorage Aberlady Bay was opened at 1217.

Mining of Humber

Mines were exploded off Spurn Point early this afternoon. SS EVROS and MOUNT PELION were mined at Milford Haven this afternoon, the latter whilst at anchor. About 20 enemy aircraft were over the Humber this evening and it is thought that about 50 mines were laid. The port was closed at 2152.

Avonmouth was closed at 2318

South Atlantic

There is reported to be a general preparation for sailing of ehemy merchant vessels from Latin American ports. AMELIORATO MARTELLI sailed from Pernambuco and FRISCO from Ceara 2230/28, and DRESDEN left Santos 2240/28. Italian ships at Montevideo appear to have reverted to normal.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations.

28.3.1941.

Dispositions.

Force B.

In the expectation that a surface raid was about to be carried out against our convoys in the Aegean, with extensive air operations north and south of Crete, on 28/3, C.in C. Mediterranean ordered Force B (ORION, AJAX, PERTH, GLOUCESTER and destroyers), after completing with fuel p.m./27 at Suda Bay to be in position 34° 20'N., 24° 10' East at 0630/28.

Battle Fleet. Forces A, C.)

Force A. (WARSPITE, VALIANT, BARHAM) with FORMIDABLE and available destroyers (Force C) left Alexandria p.m./27 and proceeded westwards.

Convoys.

Convoy A.G.9 was turned back at dusk 27th so as to be to eastward of the Battle Fleet at dawn 28/3 before resuming its previous route. The sailing of Convoy G.A. was postponed.

Force D.

Force D. (JUNO, JAGUAR, DEFENDER) were put at short notice at Piraeus and were later ordered out on Kithera patrol.

Submarines.

Submarines ROVER on patrol off Suda Bay and TRIUMPH S.W. of Milo from dawn today.

Suda Bay.

CARLISLE to reinforce the A.A. defence of Suda Bay. Local patrol craft off Crete are withdrawn under the defences of Suda Bay.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Dispositions.

F.A.A. standing by with fighters and Swordfish armed with torpedoes.
R.A.F. R/C was arranged.
(Note: At 1220/27 aircraft sighted 3 enemy cruisers and a destroyer in 36° 30'N., 16° 40'E. (75 miles E. by S. of Cape Passaro) steering 120°.
(Note: The following account of the engagement with the Italian Fleet is based on information available up to 30/3/41).

Enemy Cruisers sighted 0802.

At 0802 today V.A.L.F. (ORION) reported an enemy force of either 3 cruisers or 2 8 inch and 2 6" cruisers, with 3 destroyers, bearing 010° 13 miles about 70 miles south of Gavdo steering approximately S.E. The enemy altered course, first to the southward and at 0859 to course 300°, with ORION chasing.

VITTORIO VENETO
(2 Battleships) sighted 1059.

Note based on C in C Med. 1604/2. The force sighted by ORION at 1059 was VITTORIO VENETO; the latter formed pte on Force B which was lucky to escape damage as destroyers had difficulty in getting into posit'n to smoke screen the rear ships, GLOUCESTER, owing to the high speed Force B was attacked throughout.

At 1059 ORION reported 2 battleships and at 1145 she reported that she was steering 120°, evidently with the intention of drawing the enemy towards the C.in C. Med., who was some miles to the eastward; ORION reported her position as 34° 19'N. 24° 10'E., course 120° speed 30 knots.
(Note: C.in C. Med. reports (1558/30) that at 0749 a force was sighted consisting of one LITTORIO class, 6 cruis and 7 destroyers, later joined by 2 cruisers and at least 2 destroyers).

Second Force sighted by A/C. 2 battleships, 3 cruisers 1135.

At 1135 aircraft reported 2 enemy battleships (CAVOURS) 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers * steering 280°, about 50 miles to the northward of the former force.
*(Note: C.in C. Med., 1558/30 says 4 destroyers.)

By noon all forces seem to have been sterring a westerly course at high speed.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

VENDETTA.	At 1130 VENDETTA in 34° 26'N., 25° 7'E. reported engine trouble and ordered (1326/28) to return to Alexandria.
Greek. Destroyers.	Seven Greek destroyers proceeded shortly after noon to await oiler between Cephalonia and Zante.
BONAVENTURE.	BONAVENTURE sailed at 1300 at 25 knots and DECOY and WATERHEN about 1700 at 20 knots, all for 33° 20'N., 25° 0'E., thence if no other orders received for Suda Bay.
Enemy Submarines. C.in C's position.	An enemy submarine was reported by aircraft at 1210 in 34° 57'N., 23° 16'E. At 1215 the C.in C. was in 114° 34°N., 24° E. 36 miles steering 270° at 24 knots.
First attack by FORMIDABLE, 5 A/C.	A torpedo bomber attack was launched from FORMIDABLE, which arrived at 1130 and claimed a possible hit. The LITTORIO and her cruisers then turned westward. (C.in C. Med., 1558/30).
Attack by F.A.A. from Maleme.	At 1415/28, Maleme reported that at 1205 three F.A.A. Swordfish attacked the cruiser force in 288° 34° N., 24° E., 48 miles. (34° 15'N., 23° 6'E.) and obtained one possible hit. A second striking force of Swordfish was ordered at 1200 to attack the battleships in 300° 34°N., 24° E., 33 miles (34° 16'N., 23° 20'E.) F.A.A. were ordered by C.in C. Med., to carry out a dusk torpedo bomber attack if possible.
LITTORIO torpedoed by F.A.A.	During the afternoon search from FORMIDABLE regained touch with the enemy and a further torpedo bomber attack was carried out, claiming 3 hits on LITTORIO class battleships, (C.in C. Med., 1558/30), reducing her speed.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Attacks by Blenheims.

Between 1500 and 1700. 19 Blenheims from Greece attacked the enemy formation of 2 battleships, 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers in 35° 0'N., 20° 55'E., and claim a direct hit with a 500 S.A.P. bomb on a cruiser, a hit with 250 lb. S.A.P. bomb on a second cruiser, and a hit with 250 lb. S.A.P. bomb on a destroyer, in addition to near misses and considerable interference caused to the enemy's movements. The first cruiser stopped after being hit; her position is given as 35° 31'N., 21° 25'E.

Northern force ~~LITTORIO~~ V. VENETO sighted enemy concentrating.

At 1827/28 aircraft reported that a battleship (amplified a few minutes later by WARSPITE's A/C as ~~LITTORIO~~ V. VENETO) with 3 6" cruisers and 7 destroyers was in 35° 11'N., 21° 20½ E., and at 1855 WARSPITE's A/C reported that they were concentrating with the other force of 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers. By 1914/28 the enemy battle fleet was in 5 columns, reported by WARSPITE's A/C as one LITTORIO Class, 3 8" and 5 6" cruisers, 5 destroyers, with A/S screen of 4 vessels. The course of the enemy was about 300°.

Dusk attacks by F.A.A.

F.A.A. striking force attacked this formation with torpedoes. The number of cruisers is given as 7) at 1940, position reported as 286° 35° N., 22° E. 35 miles, one hit was seen (apparently on a cruiser) others reported probable. Two of FORMIDABLE's aircraft are missing The enemy was reported at 1930 engaging our aircraft and making smoke.

A dusk torpedo bomber attack was also made by Maleme. It is not thought that ~~LITTORIO~~ V. VENETO was hit during the above two attacks, but definitely one cruiser was hit. (C.in C. Med., 1558/30).

At 2040/28 ORION reported an unknown shi apparently stopped in 35° 18'N., 21° 13' East.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

C.in C. engages cruisers.

At 2232/28 C.in C. Med., reported that he was engaging the enemy cruisers and destroyers. (It was apparently at this time that the FIUME and ZARA were crippled).

Fleet ordered to R/V.

At 0005/29 C.in C. Med., ordered the Fleet in company to R/V with him at 0700 in 35° 55'N., 21° 38'E.

~~LITTORIO~~ V.VENETO stopped. HAVOC reports no torpedoes left.

At 0020/29 HAVOC (Force C) reported she was in contact with a battleship of LITTORIO class which appeared to be undamaged and stopped. HAVOC had expended all her torpedoes. At 0050 she reported her position at 35° 17' 0" N 21° 5' 15" E., (if ORION's report 2040/28) GRIFFIN and GREYHOUND reported that they were on the way to the position

Night actions. 2 cruisers sunk.

In the cause of a series of actions which took place during the night 28/29 March, within 50 miles of position 35° N. 21° E., our battleships very severely damaged the two 8 inch cruisers FIUME and ZARA (which were later torpedoed and sunk by our destroyers). The battleships and FORMIDABLE withdrew before daylight, C.in C. sending the screen to mop up.

At 0830/29, an A/C sighted survivors rafts and a dinghy with survivors were sighted later in 35° 20'N., 21° 0'E., and 35° 46'N., 20° 50'E.

Position of Fleet 0700.

At 0700/29 the C.in C. Med., and Fleet were in 35° 55'N., 21° 40'E., steering 250° at 17 knots.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

A dive bombing attack by about 12 aircraft was made on the Fleet today. No damage was caused and one enemy aircraft was shot down.

Submarine to intercept damaged ships.

At 2329/29 RORQUAL was ordered to patrol North of the Straits of Messina, to intercept damaged Italian ships, particularly LITTORIO class battleship probably proceeding to Spezzia with speed reduced to 15 knots by successive torpedo aircraft attacks yesterday.

Casualties.

On 30/3 C.in C. Med., reported that it was definitely confirmed that the following Italian ships were sunk:-

8" Cruisers.

FIUME
POLA
ZARA

Destroyers.

~~VINCENZO GIOBERTI~~ VITTORIO ALFIERI
MAESTRALE

In addition one COLLEONE cruiser and a third destroyer were probably sunk and a good deal of damage done to other ships including LITTORIO (Flagships of Italian C.in C.)
It seems likely that the ~~LITTORIO~~ V. VENETO engaged some of her own forces during the night as 15 inch firing was heard at a time and in a direction where none of our forces were present.
Two of the sunk cruisers were wrecked by the battleships and finished off by our destroyers, the third (POLA) was apparently damaged by F.A.A. attack at 2030 and self-sunk later.
Two JU. 88 were shot down during the action. No damage or casualties was caused to our ships or personnel throughout the operation, other than three F.A.A. aircraft missing.
The Greek destroyers were rushed through the Corinth Canal but arrived too late to take part in the action.
About 900 Italian survivors were rescued further rescue work was prevented by German aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Force C.	NUBIAN.
	MOHAWK.
	HAVOCK.
	HOTSPUR.
	GREYHOUND.
Also left for Alexandria with C.in C.	STUART.
	JERVIS.
	JANUS.
	GREYHOUND.
	GRIFFIN.
Force B.	STUART.
	HEREWARD.
	VENDETTA ?

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean -Contd.

Air Operations

Bombs were dropped at certain points on Malta last night but no Service damage or casualties occurred.

Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour last night.

America & West Indies

MALAYA arrived at Trinidad this morning.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Defence Against Human Torpedoes.

Ref. A message 524 A. of 8/11/40.
A successful attack by six human torpedoes has been carried out in Suda Bay.
Attention is drawn to importance of precautions already ordered in 625 A of 20/12/40 and 752 A of 4/2/41. Where possible A/S patrols should also be maintained as far to seaward in approaches to important harbours as possible. This should increase distance at which human torpedoes must be disembarked from their parent submarine.
Constant boat patrols within the anchorage are also desirable as the period for which a human torpedo can remain submerged is probably limited. (D. of L.D. 0016/29,"A" Message, Home and Abroad 896.A.).

Plymouth. Command Redispositions.

To meet the increasing scale of enemy air attack in the Plymouth Command, it has been decided to make the following redispositions.
2. LEWES, previously allocated to Rosyth, to be retained by C. in C. Plymouth on completion of working up.
3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to loan one HUNT class to C. in C Plymouth.
4. C. in C.W.A. is requested to loan one WAIR to C. in C. Plymouth. (V.C.N.S.1523/29.

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command Notice for Steam.

Starting today destroyers, corvettes, and fleet minesweepers in harbour are normally to be at the following notice for steam
0630 -2030 daily 2= 1/2 hours.
2030 -0630 1/2 hours.
Cancel my 1112/23/10/40.
(C. in C. Nore 1225/29.).

/MANELA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MANELA. My 1234/28. Pass to MANELA and HEEMSKERK Cancel route from Sullom Voe to Reykjavik. Further route will be signalled.(F.O. Greenock 1207/29 to RESTIGOUCHE.).

RESOLUTION. Your 1321/19. RESOLUTION will not be ready to sail until ~~P.M.~~/ 2/4. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1607/29.).

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

OBERON, TUNA, TORBAY, UNBEATEN, H.31, H.32, H.34, H.44, H.50, L.27, O.9, O.10. — Movements. (F.O.S.0043/29.). (C.in C.Plymouth 0745/29 (Capt.S.5.1401/29.).

Numbered Positions. — Additional numbered Positions 83 to 89 inclusive established as follows.(F.O.S.1736/29) See Summaries Folder.

Orders on leaving. Patrol positions. — Should it for any reason be necessary for a Submarine to quit her patrol position she should proceed well clear of other patrol positions and then to eastward of QZX 336 crossing lat. 48° 30' between meridians 7° and 8° W., and thence towards Plymouth.
Unless it is essential no report should be made until to the north of lat. 48° 30'N.
The above does not apply to O 24 who should in such circumstances proceed to Gibraltar. (F.O.S. 1852/29.).

Positions and Group Movement. — (a) Position occupied by submarines in Bay of Biscay at 0800/30 is as follows:-
(b) Group Movement is as follows.
(F.O.S. 1942/29.).

TIGRIS. Eastbound enemy shipping is believed to cross 100 fathom line between 046° N., and 048° 20' N., approach on approx. course 90°.

/Operate.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

TIGRIS.contd.	Operate in this vicinity close west of 100 fathom line from 31/3 leaving if necessary for alternative date of operation EUROPEAN. (F.O.S. 1943/29 and 0059/30 to TIGRIS.).
East Coast Patrol.	No A.P. Vessel at 5 Buoy, between 5 Buoy and Hearts Knoll, Sheringham Buoy, or between 57 C and 58 Buoy tonight Saturday. (C. in C. Nore 1005/29.).
Patrol K.	HOLDERNESS and VANESSA will do Patrol K tonight and will cover F.S.49 from Hearty Knoll until daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1529/29)
CHILIAN REEFER.	Your 1244/27. Master and 23 survivors CHILEAN REEFER attacked by GNEISENAU and last seen burning fiercely landed by RODNEY in Reykjavik 25/3. Master states intercepted distress signal from six of ships mentioned. Consider report refers to crews of these ships and that ships were sunk. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1810/29.).
ADMIRAL SCHEER.	D/F at 1917 B.S.T. Cupar 303° (2) Possibly surface ship, Bearing passes vicinity of convoys HX.115 and O.B.302.(D.D.I.C.2106/29). Adty., 2106/29xreliable report. Possibly ADMIRAL SCHEER homeward bound. Endeavour to intercept if fuel permits. (C. in C. H.F. 2332/29 to KING GEORGE V.).

British Air Activity.

Escorts.	Expect following a/c from 18 Group as a/s air escort today. Whitley form first light until 1030. Sunderland from 1030 to 1500. Hudsons from 1500 till dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 0237/29 to OTTAWA, etc.). Cancel my 1730/29. Expect escort by 18 Group Sunderland from 0900/30 until 2030/30 when Whitley Aircraft of 18 Group take over until 0800/31. (C. in C. Rosyth 2350/29 to VENOMOUS, etc.).

/Bombing.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Bombing Restrictions.	Ops 387 29/3/41. Institute t.b.r. within 15' of coast between Dodman Point and Lizard Head from 0700 to 1100/29. (H.Q.C.C. 0525/29.). Cancel my 2031/27. Bombing restrictions between 48° 50° N. 4° 6° W. (C. in C. Plymouth 1113/29.
Iceland.	03005 0685 Cipher 29/3. Your 58955 (M.O.8) 29th March. Position and date not fully understood. Presume this is convoy attacked about 0400/29 on which O.C. 30 wing and F.O.I.C.are already taking action. One Sunderland and 3 battle aircraft employed on searching and convoy duties. (C.O.C. Iceland 1224/29.).
Air Operations.	Day 28th March. 18 Blenheims successfully completed sweep. No enemy shipping observed. Night 28/29 March. No operations were carried out owing to unfavourable weather. (H.Q.B.C. 1600/29.).
Patrols.	To locate enemy battle cruiser leaving Brest the following patrols are being flown by 19 Group weather permitting. A. Coastal search from Brest to Gironde and return finishing at light. B. Cross-over patrol by A.S.V. fitted aircraft between 048° 32' N., 005° 53' W., and 047° 23' N., 004° 50' W., 2100 till 0100. Large enemy warships will be reported and shadowed. (C. in C. Plymouth 1737/29.).My 0652/29. UNST HORNLI not flown. 2 Blenheims on offensive patrol Muckle Flugga to 61° 30' N., 0° 20' W., to intercept enemy aircraft now in operation till dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 1810/29.).
Own A/C fired on 24/3.	Following received from Air Ministry. "X.434. 28/3. Request you investigate and report on following incident. Report received that Blenheim L.9389 fired on by trawler off Yarmouth at about 1430 hours 24/3. Aircraft subsequently reported missing". 2. Request you investigate and report. (D. of L.D. 1812/29 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

STAFFORDSHIRE (Bombed 28/3)

Am escorting STAFFORDSHIRE on her remaining dual engines to Loch Ewe. SAMA in company with 160 survivors. 76 survivors in WANDERER. Estimated 30 dead and (?7) seriously wounded. Several minor casualties for hospital treatment.
(WANDERER. Rec'd. 0220/29)
Your 2030/28. Survivors and wounded should be taken to Stornoway.
(C in C W.A. 0953/29 to WANDERER.)
SAMA bound Liverpool to St. John N.B. sailing independently arrived Stornoway with 234 survivors and 4 corpses from STAFFORDSHIRE (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1617/29).
STAFFORDSHIRE arrived Loch Ewe has 2 Officers and 41 Naval Ratings on board landed 10 Officers and 25 Ratings at Aultbea. Known Naval casualties one Lieut. R.N.R. and one Motor Mechanic. Ratings on board standing by ship. Am collecting crew and returning them to ship at Captain's request. Ship still afloat but water gaining. Am standing by to beach her if necessary.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea. 1912/29).
STAFFORDSHIRE has been beached.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 2153/29).

Convoy FS. 49

One enemy aircraft bearing 180° 3 miles, course 270°. Position 53° 28' N. 0° 57' E.
(VERDUN 1152/29).
My 1152. Aircraft shadowing 1000 feet.
(VERDUN 1207/29).
One Aircraft bearing 300° distant one mile course 260° my position 53° 14' N 1° 8' E.
(VERDUN 1415/29).
Help. Enemy A/C bombing convoy "Plumb."
(VERDUN 1419/29)
My 1419. 2 bombs no hits. (VERDUN 1425/29)
Fighter aircraft being sent to PLUMB.
(Whitehall W/T 1428/29)
Am being attacked by enemy aircraft. 3 bombs no hits.
(VERDUN 1534/29).

ANTWERPEN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ANTWERPEN.	(Dutch, 364 tons) Bombed and sunk at 1530/28 7 Miles N.W. Bull Point in 051° 16' N 004° 21' W. 4 survivors out of crew of 7 landed at Swansea. (N.O.I.C. Swansea. 1220/29).
ARROW	1 A/C bearing 080° 3 miles my position 54° 10' N 14° 12' W. (ARROW. 1305 /29)
Convoy FN 45.	One enemy A/C bearing 050 from Convoy. Position 310° Outer Dowsing LV 26 miles. (PYTCHLEY 1325/29 and 1408/29). My 1408. 4 bombs no hits fighters chasing. (PYTCHLEY 1433/29) Fighter protection being sent Pilot. (Whitehall: Rec'd. 1438/29).
EMPIRE MERMAID. (Bombed 26/3)	Arrived ACHATES with 19 survivors from EMPIRE MERMAID. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1346/29).
VENI.	(Norwegian, 2982 tons). Attacked by enemy plane in 60° 10' N. 11° 11' W. (VENI 1431/29).
Convoy WN. 5	1 A/C Shadowing Convoy Material in 58° 18' N 2° 29' W. (Whitehall W/T 1615/29). Fighters being sent to assist MATERIAL (Liverpool W/T 1624/29).
SIR JOHN LISTER	(M/S Trawler) Machine-gunned off Lizard 1200/29. One rating to Falmouth sick quarters. Injury serious but not dangerous. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1622/29).
Convoy AGENT OILTRADER (British Tanker, 5550 tons sunk)	Shadowed by one enemy aircraft in 52° 19' N 1° 59' E. (WALLACE 1658/29)

1 shadowing.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy AGENT OILTRADER (British Tanker, 5550 tons sunk.) (continued).

1 shadowing aircraft Convoy AGENT, in 52° 30' N 2° 5' E.
(WALLACE 1832/29) .
Enemy A/C bombing AGENT.
(WALLACE 1845/29).
My 1845 OILTRADER hit in after hold. Engines out of action send tugs.
(WALLACE 1850/29).
My 1850. OILTRADER abandoning ship.
(WALLACE 1902/29).
Enemy aircraft bombing AGENT.
(WALLACE 1913/29).
AGENT Bombed a second time. No hits.
(WALLACE 1919/29).
My 1902. Trawlers standing by trying to beach her.
(WALLACE 1924/29).
My 1913. 2 bombs no hits.
(WALLACE 1925/29).
Tugs leaving Yarmouth for OILTRADER.
(C in C Nore 1951/29).
My 1924. Position of OILTRADER 052° 36.5' N 002° E.
(WALLACE 1958/29).
Enemy aircraft bombing.
(WALLACE 2004/29).
My 2004. 3 AP bombing and machine gunning.
(WALLACE 2009/29). My 2009 No damage. Seek
(WALLACE 2019/29).
[illegible] has sunk.
(EGLINTON 2044/29).

Unknown Ship.

Received 1904 G.M.T. AAAA DE GHPG 10W. Scarweather Ship. Planes attacking.
(Burnham Radio 1900/29).

KINGSWAY.

(British steam Trawler) Reports have been bombed by enemy A/C at approximately 1400/26. Position 10 miles E. of Bell Rock. Vessel making water slowly. No casualties. Vessel now in Leith. (C in C Rosyth 1909/29)

KIMBERLEY. sunk.

(Trawler) Bombed and sunk vicinity 62E buoy, Survivors landed at Grimsby. Boats

crew from.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

KIMBERLEY. sunk. (cont.) — crew from S.S. EFFRA engaged on present work also landed at Grimsby. EFFRA undamaged and proceeded. (F.O. Humber 2206/29).

Mining.

Operation GZ. — C in C Plymouth 1403/28. Owing to unexpected difficulties in preparing mines vessels concerned cannot be loaded until 1700 today. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1009/29). Operation G.Z. is postponed to night of 30/31 March. (C in C Plymouth 1029/29). Operation G.Z. para 5. Amend R/V to read 130 Wolf Rock 10 at 2030/30. 20th D.F. to round Wolf Rock 140 Approach R/V on an easterly course. (C in C Plymouth 1357/29).

Z.M.E. 26. — Intend leaving Milford Haven 1545 today for Z.M.E. 26 to lay at midnight returning on completion about 0845 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1042/29).

Thames Estuary. — Four S.A. Mines detonated today as follows. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1150/29).

Aberlady Convoy Anchorage. — Cancel my 1244/4/3. (C in C Rosyth 1217/29).

Operation SN 8. — Proposals and details. (R.A.M.L. 1242/29). See Operations.Volume.

Operation PW 7. — Proposals. (C in C Nore. 1234/29) See Operations Volum

MOUNT PELION. — (Greek, 5655 tons) Mined at anchor Milford Haven. Number One full up water. (Burnham Radio 1552/29).

3 Mines.....

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

3 Mines sunk off Iceland.

My 1235/24 and my 1409/27 Icelandic Fisheries Protection Ship THOR sank 3 mines 28/3 as follows. Mines recovered . (position) All mines British marked XX . (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1600/29).

GRENAA.

(British, 1262 tons) Loaded with grain. Blew up by magnetic mine whilst securing to Bellamy's Wharf at about 1230 today. 4 killed 3 missing.
(F.O.I.C. London. 1832/29).

Spurn Point.

At 1234 today L L Trawlers detonated a mine 049=1/2°. Spurn Point Lighthouse 20 miles. At 1304 a mine exploded spontaneously in 138°. Spurn Point Light-house 3 miles.
(F.O. Humber 1942/29)

Humber.

My 2152/29. About 20 aircraft over Humber. Expected about 50 miles laid below middle L/V. Anticipated port will be open at 1100 tomorrow.
(F.O. Humber 2230/29).

Avonmouth.

Owing to possibility of minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Avonmouth until further orders or to proceed above Walton Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff. 2318/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU.

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were in Brest a.m./28.
(F.O.S. 0104/29).

Enemy Convoy.

Convoy 6 M V tonnage 3000 to 8000, course 090° position 61° - 55' N. 4° - 55' E.
(D 254. 1045/29 to 18 Group).
00603 cipher 29/3. Following for M.I.3 French Ambassador told Counsellor last nigh that he had news of recent German movements towards channel ports.
(Military Attache Berne 2122/29 to War Offic

MOST SECRET.

War Dairy.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GARTH.

GARTH's position uncertain. Two Tugs to proceed as arranged to Haisboro' Sand third Tug with lighter to N. Scroby earliest daylight escorted by Trawler A/C from Bircham Newton searching at daylight Fighter Patrol asked for if possible.
(C in C Nore 0453/29).
Departure GARTH in tow of tug DIVERSION for Harwich by swept channels E.T.A. 2000
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1148/29).
GARTH escorting F N 45 last night grounded on North Scroby. Now refloated and will be towed to Harwich. Propellers known to be damaged. Other damage not known.
(C in C Nore 1211/29).

B1

Rammed in Rosses's Channel Londonderry at 1920 28/3 by H.M. Trawler LADY ELSA. Slight superficial damage near the bows. No damage to torpedo tubes, dydroplanes or pressure hull. Still seaworthy.
(B 1 0950/29).

LEWES.

My 1652/24. LEWES delayed by defects
(C in C Plymouth 1244/29).

S/M B1

Norwegian submarine B 1 in collision with H.M.T. LADY ELSA at 1920/28 in Loch Foyle. LADY ELSA undamaged B. 1 damaged intend to carry out sufficient repairs by 0900/3 to enable trials to complete without delay when weather is suitable.
(Capt. D Londonderry 1539/29).

CAIRO

R.A.D's 2130/28/3. Work of installing two pom poms will take 10 days. Ships officers seriously concerned regarding foremost condenser.tubes. Request early dioision
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1640/29).

MARGUERITE
MARIE LOUISE

Cancel my 0930/28. Now at Appledore. Will be returning with defects to Port Talbot.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1645/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Capital Ship Escorts.	Procedure at night when escorting slow convoys. (V.C.N.S. 1038/29) "A" Message) original in Lion copy only.
Radius Routes.	Reply to Admty. 2334/27. (C in C W.A. 1743/29 to Admty). Original in special summeries Folder.
Advice of important cargoes	Admty. 2224/27. Authorities concerned should give as much notice as possible, in order that necessary arrangements may be made for escorts. (D.O.D. (H) 2141/29. to all C in C's and F.O.I.C.'s Home.).
Military Convoys W.S. 7	List. Fuel consumption and bunkers. (D.S.T. 0314/29). Following twenty vessels sailed U.K. 25/3 in convoy W.S. 7 List. Speed Distination and Port of Call, South Africa. (D.S.T. 1754/29).
GLENARTNEY COMORIN BOREAS	Loading at Liverpool with important Militar stores for Suez, ready to leave U.K. 4/4. COMORIN carrying military personnel for Freetown will leave Clyde 4/4 April for Freetown and is to provide ocean escort for GLENARTNEY to vicinity of Freetown. BOREAS is to provide A/S escort as far as fuel permits proceeding to Gibraltar to re-fuel. C in C W.A. requested to provide the necessary additional A/S escort. (D.O.D.(H) 2253/29 to C in C W.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAIRNDALE. Your 2136/28. Admty intention was that CAIRNDALE should proceed to sea R/V. Unless you have any special reason to cancel it, request you will so direct her. (1st S.L. 0007/29 to F.O.C.N.A.) Cancel my 2136/28. Order CAIRNDALE to proceed in accordance with previous orders. FLEUR DE LYS and CORIOPSIS return to Gibraltar on same route as outward voyage. Inform CAIRNDALE that information regarding PANDORA will be passed to her. FLEUR DE LYS acknowledge when 50 miles from CAIRNDALE. (F.O.C.N.A. 0118/29 to FLEUR DE LYS). PANDORA sailed 0300/29 and will now R/V with you during daylight 3rd or 4th/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 0252/29 to CAIRNDALE).

Operation "Winch" "Tender". You have full discretion to carry out operations WINCH and TENDER as you think fit observing that: (a) "WINCH" must be carried out as soon as practicable. (b) REPULSE, FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA must wait at Gibraltar until an adequate screen can be provided. (c) HIGHLANDER is at your disposal until further orders. (d) NAPIER and NIZAM must proceed to Freetown with HIGHLAND MONARCH without delay. (1st S.L. 0022/29 to F.O.Force H, F.O.C.N.A.)

PANDORA. Leaves Gibraltar 0300/29 routed through 034° N., 012° and 031° N., 018°W thence to vicinity of 032° 30' N., 032° 30'W. speed of advance 10½ knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 0220/29 to N.A.Station). Departure PANDORA in accordance with F.O.C.N.A's 1216/27 amended by 0252/29. Route. (S.O.(I) Gibr. 0356/29).

"Q" Report. Unknown vrmed merchant ship ordering me to stop. (CITY OF DIEPPE, 0615/29). Following has been read. Cancel my 0520/29, CITY OF DIEPPE, friendly. (Gibraltar Radio 0652/29). Your 0630/29. (No trace W/R, 0615/29 from CITY OF DIEPPE refers.) CITY OF DIEPPE is Naval Store Carrier bound for Gibraltar from Freetown. Report your P.C.and S. (F.O.C.N.A. 0732/29 to MARSDALE.)

/Your 0732/29 .

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Your 0732/29. At 0550 P C and S 035° 16' N., 006° 56' W., 233° 12½ knots proceeding after investigating ship. At 0800 P. C and S 035° 33' N., 006° 30' W 233 12½ knots. (MARSDALE, 0930/29) Cancel my 0520/29 FRIEND. (CITY OF DIEPPE 0752/29 to F.O.C.N.A.) CITY OF DIEPPE later chased by submarine See U/B Campaign.

Crew of A/C Rescued by Spanish Ship.

My 1837/19. All arrived and in my charge Will be sent to Gibraltar after few formalities. (N.A.Madrid 1001/29 to Admty.)

French Convoy Operation "Ration", Escorts for Force H and REPULSE.

Slow French convoy consisting of BANGKOK, SAN DIEGO, CAP VARELLA, AZROU escorted by French Destroyer SIMOUN now passing Straits Eastbound in territorial waters. Intend to carry out "RATION" with four "Fleets" supported by SHEFFIELD. As it is unlikely that interception can take place until convoy reaches French North Africa territorial waters about noon/30, force concerned cannot be expected to reach Gibraltar until p.m/31. They will not be available to meet either S.O. Force H or REPULSE. Unless therefore NAPIER and NIZAM can be utilized which should not delay them more than about two days there will be only four destroyers and EGRET available here to meet and screen Force H and REPULSE. EGRET's convoy sails on 3/4. (F.O.C.N.A., 1044/29 to Admty.) Your 1044/29. It is hoped that interception may prove possible earlier that noon/30. NIZAM and NAPIER may be used to screen battlecruisers but should be delayed as short a time as possible. (V.C.N.S., 1348/29 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1044/29. You should be guided by A.T. 0120/28 and not A.T. 2255/13. BANGKOK however remains your major objective. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1920/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Captured.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Captured Tankers	My 1848/26. (N.T. in W.D.) Method of raider oiling at sea. Indications of ALTMARK Class tanker co-operating on 15/3 and appeared part loaded when sighted by SAN CASIMIRO at dawn that day. Following ships reported sunk up to 15/3 and other prizes. KANTARA, TRELAWNEY, DUFF, HASLEDEN. Master of BIANCA states that from previous experience in Norway ALTMARK is capable of at least 22 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108/29 to Admty.)
ASAKA MARU	My 1022/28. My reply sent 15/3 repeated herewith. Your 1551/14, she asked for 500 tons took 285 from Portuguese Company not subject to our control 1224/15. (N.A.Lisbon 1113/29 to Admty.)
CAPO ALGA, TODARO BURANO	Italian vessels, now ready to sail, Admiralty has been informed. (Consul Teneriffe, 1117/29 to D.N.I.)
FRISCO	(Italian) sailed from Ceara at 2330/28. (D.D.I.C., 1623/29 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P)
French Hostages	55 French hostages taken at Dakar have now been here for six months and there appears to be no prospect of early settlement with Vichy Govt. Will you press for immediate withdrawal to U.K. or elsewhere? Accommodation urgently required. (Govr. Gib. 1630/29 to W.O.)
Force H Escort.	My 1238/28. (Escort for S.O.Force H in operation in Western Mediterranean) Amend names of destroyers to read NAPIER (S.O.) FORTUNE and NIZAM. (F.O.C.N.A. 1734/29 to S.O.Force H.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Operations "Ration"	Gibraltar departures eastward SHEFFIELD FAULKNOR, FURY FORESTER, FEARLESS to carry out Operation "Ration" in accordance with F.O.C., N.A's 1044/29 (S.O.I., Gib. 2300/29 to Admty. etc.)
NAPIER NIZAM FORTUNE	Gibraltar departure NAPIER FORTUNE NIZAM to R.V. Force H in accordance with my 1734/29. (S.O.I. Gib. 2340/29 to S.O. Force H.)

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

LECH (German).	Rio de Janeiro reports loading of LECH is proceeding and that it is expected ship will be ready to sail about second week in April. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0012Z/29 to S.A. Division).
FAUSTO and Italian ships in Montevideo.	My 0112/23. (FAUSTO reported to be raising steam). No further signs of activity on board Italian ships in Montevideo which appear to have reverted to normal. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0044Z/29).
German ships at Santos.	Following A.3. report received from Santos. Reported German ships at Santos are sailing early a.m./30. So far no signs of activity, 2035/28 (Ends). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0132Z/29).
DRESDEN sailing.	Following received from Santos. German ship is now leaving harbour 2240/28. This presumably refers to DRESDEN. S.O.(I) Freetown informed. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 0230Z/29, to Admty.) (C.in C. S.A. 2107/29 to Admty). My 0230Z/29 name of ship is DRESDEN. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1201Z/29).
FRISCO.	Italian FRISCO departure 2330/28 destination not known. (Scara. to Fairmiss, T.H.I. 0735/29). (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 0851/29). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1108Z/29).
DELHI.	Simonstown departure 0900/28 DELHI, for St. Helena and Freetown at 16 knots in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1347/27 E.T.A. St. Helena 1600/1. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0915Z/29 to Admty).
Missing Aircraft.	FURIOUS reports Fulmar missing since 1100 /27 may have landed on coast, requests enquiries. (C.in C. S.A. 1012N/29 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ASPHODEL
H.G.58.

Your 1630/28. (Proposal to sail ASPHODEL with H.G.58 convoy). I agree with programme and proposals.
(C.in C. S.A. 1203N/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FRANCO MARTELLI,
FRISCO,
DRESDEN,
LECH.

FRANCO MARTELLI sailed with 10,000 tons of oil 1730/28 from Pernambuco.
FRISCO 5,000 tons Naptha 2330/28 from Ceara.
DRESDEN 2240/28 from Santos.
LECH likely to leave Rio De Janeiro 31/3.
Manager of Shipping Company at Bahia has been approached to clean bottoms of German ships lying there in a hurry.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1401/29 to D.N.I., C.in C. S.A. 1601/29 to S.A.Sqdn.)

DRESDEN.

Secret information B.S. received reports DRESDEN left for South of Tristan Da Cunha lat. 40° where she will receive further instructions.
(N.A. Rio De Janeiro 1639/29 to D.N.I. etc

French West Africa.

Situation if Free French in West Africa were attacked by Vichy French.
(G.O.C. W. Africa, 1650/29 to W.O.)

Dispositions of S.A.D.

In view of activity of enemy merchant vessels in S. American ports.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1724Z/29) See Operations Volume.

Bunkers from Freetown.

My 1030/5. To ensure sufficient space kept for bunkers Masters to be reminded that delays waiting convoy at Freetown may cause serious fouling and increased coal consumption to maintain convoy speed.
In addition to requirements in my 1030/5, tramps are required to leave Freetown with sufficient coal to reach Tyne safely.
(D.T.D. 1944/29 to C.in C's E.I. China, A.C.N.B. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

W.S.7.
WISHART,
VIDETTE.

Departure 1800 WISHART and VIDETTE to Bathurst for fuel then R/V with W.S.7. 1600/2.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2127/29 to Admty).

CABO DE HORNOS.

Following has been read. Addressed to all ships. SS CABO DE HORNOS. At 2000 hours we took shipwrecked on lat. 7.50N., 25.56 W. we be careful all ships nearby. (MOSQUITERA (Spanish) T.O.R. 2152N/29).

Convoy S.L. 70.

Departure 0900/29 Convoy S.L.70 with DRAGON as escort until relieved by BULOLO. Local A/S escort CALENDULA until 4/4 H.M. Trawlers KELT and PICT until 2/4.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2357N/29).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets

List of Principal Officers

(From Admiralty narrative issued to Press for publication 2.4.1941.)

C. in C.	Adm. Sir A.B.Cunningham.	WARSPITE
V.A.L.F.	Vice-Adm. H.D. Pridham Wippell	ORION
R.A. (A)	Rear-Adm. D.W. Boyd	FORMIDABLE
R.A. 1 B.S.	Rear-Adm. H.B. Rawlings	BARHAM

Battleships:-

WARSPITE	Capt. D.B. Fisher
VALIANT	Capt. C.E. Morgan
BARHAM	Capt. G.C.Cooke

Aircraft Carrier:-

FORMIDABLE	Capt. A.W.La T.Bisset

Cruisers:-

ORION	Capt. G.R.B.Back
AJAX	Capt. E.D.B.Mc.Carthy
PERTH	Capt. Sir P.W.Bowyer-Smyth, Bt.
GLOUCESTER	Capt. H.B. Rowley

Flotilla Leader:-

STUART	Capt. H.M.L.Waller R.A.N.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets

Mediterranean Fleet. Position.

(1) Intend to pass through position 200° 36.22 N., 21.18 E., at 2330 on course 070° 17 knots.
(2) Intend to alter course to 250° at 0430.
(3) R.V. with me in 252° 36° N., 22° E., 18 at 0700 on course 250° 17 knots.
(4) BONAVENTURE, JUNO, JAGUAR, DEFENDER keep East of 022° 45' E., till 0430 then proceed R.V. (C. in C., Med., 0005/29 0006/29 to Med. Fleet)

HAVOCK in contact

In contact 1 LITTORIO Class who appears to be undamaged and stopped. Will not return (corrupt group) Have expended all torpedoes. (HAVOCK 0020/29 to Capt. D. 14.)
Following has been received. Addressed HAVOCK from C. in C., Med. Verify your 0020. Give position. (Nore W/T 0040/29)
Following received. Addressed Capt. D.14 Repeated C. in C., Med. from HAVOCK. My position is 014° 35° N., 21° E., 18.8 (Nore W/T 0050/29)
Following received (Corrupt group) repeated D. 14 HAVOCK from GREYHOUND Expect to reach HAVOCK 0140 with GRIFFIN. (Nore W/T 0105/29)
Following received. Addressed HAVOCK from D. 14. Were you burning searchlights at 02? (Nore W/T 0213/29)

Battleship and 2 Cruisers damaged

Speed of one LITTORIO class battleship reduced to 15 knots by successive day torpedo aircraft attacks. Fleet pursued and in ensuing night actions our battleships have very severely damaged 2 8- inch cruisers, hoped sunk. Destroyer attacks taking place result not yet known. (C. in C., Med., 0028/29 to Admty.)

Aircraft Attack

My 2205/28. (attack on enemy fleet) One aircraft landed 2300/28, one crashed Suda Bay, crew safe. (Maleme, 0045/29 to C. in C., Med.)

/Following...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets Contd.

Following has been read.
Suda must not use Admirals as point (? to) point. (Naval Gen. Call Sign 0115/29 to Alexandria)

BONAVENTURE — R.A. Alexandria's 1350/28. Am joining you. My P C and S are 033° 20' N., 025° 00' E., 300° 25 knots. (BONAVENTURE 0131/29 to C. in C., Med.)

Part 2, my A 184/29. Continue long as fuel permits then land Scara Cancel W.A.A. N refuel stand by during daylight. (Med. A/C 0315/29 to A/C Mediterranean)

FORMIDABLE Aircraft — FORMIDABLE's aircraft R.V. with fleet in position 235° 53 miles from Cape Matapan at 0700. M.L.A. 250° 17 knots. (C. in C., Med. 0326/29 to S.B.N.O., Suda Bay)

Greek Destroyers — Greek destroyer flotilla may be joining the fleet from northward at 0700. (C. in C., Med. 0335/29)

Following has been read: W. 329 A 184 L. Leave first light search sector depth 130 miles between 270° and 327° from position 280° Spade 100 miles. 0312/29 (Med. A/C 0342/29)

Destroyers to R.V. at 0700 — Be sure and make the R.V. at 0700 in position 252° 36° N., 22° E 18,250° 17 knots. (C. in C., Med, 0358/29 to Capt.(D) 2. Capt. (D) 14 Capt. (D) 10 HASTY, GREYHOUND, HAVOCK.

/Following...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets Contd.

Following has been read. Am returning to base Suda to make repair on water. (Med. A/C 0525/29 to Med. Fleet A/C)

Sector 270. 327° from 3600 N., 21.40 E. (Med. A/C 0530/29 to A/C Med.)

A. 188 shift search 40 - M - NW. (Med. A/C., 0750/29)

Series of night actions took place in area within 50 miles of position 035° N., 021° E. Believe two (? enemy cruisers) sunk. C. in C. Med. and fleet P. C and S at 0700, 035° 55' N., 021° 40' E., 250°, 17 knots. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0753/29 to V.A. Malta, etc.)

Lifeboats

XX I Lifeboats and men position 35. 22 N 20.20 E. (Med, A/C 0820/29 to A/C Med.)

GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE

Following has been read:- A.C. Mediterranean From Sigs. possibly survivors ex GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE. (Med. A/C 0830/29)

Following has been read: 193A Negative return Alexandria search sector between 270° and 327° from datum 36° 9' N., 21° 40' E., (A/C Med. 0903/29)

2 enemy ships, ORION

Two enemy warships type unknown bearing 205° 10 miles course unknown position 285 35° N., 22° E., R 18. (ORION 1915/29, ? 0915/29)

AAA. 198 Cancel previous orders N search sector 300° and 330° V sector 270° to 300° datum 36.00 N., 21.40 E. (A/C Med. 1100/29 to Med. A/C)

/AAAA.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleet Contd.

AAAA 199. Search area between 35.00 N., and 36. 00 N., from 20.00 E., to 18.00 E., (Med. A/C 1102/29, to A/C Med.)

Greek Destroyers — Greek destroyers are conforming with your 1135/27. (Not to Admiralty - See 0335/29 from C. in C., Med.) (N.A.Athens 1145/29 to C. in C., Med.)

Rafts — Following has been read:
Six rafts about 80 survivors position 35. 20 N., 21.00 E. (Med., 1208/29)

A/C landing — Following for Malene. Greek Coast watchers report one fighter from an aircraft carrier has forced landing at Urtemon San Nijxlo at Kithera Island at 1200/29. (N.A.Athens 1301/29 to ? S.B.N.O Suda Bay)

Greek Destroyers — Following has been read.
Four destroyers Greek 36.09 N., 19.34 E., MLA 080 25 3 destroyers Greek 15 N., 19 34 E MLA 080 25. (Med. A/C 1350/29)

Italian Survivors — Dinghy 4 survivors Italian 35.46 N., 20. 50 E. (Med A/C 1405/29 to C. in C., Med.)

Following has been read.
901. 4 Destroyers position 30.08 N., 21.19 E., course 099°, speed 20 knots H British. (A/C Med., 1420/29) W.R. Note The position 30.08 N., is understood to be wrong but nothing better can be obtained from the signal as received.

/Following.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleet. Contd.

Following has been read.
Your 1773 nothing to report intend landing Suda examine damage due to combat, E.T.A. 1640. (Med. A/C 1525/29)

RORQUAL — Order RORQUAL to patrol north of Straits of Messina 30/3 to 1/4 to intercept damaged enemy particularly Italian battleship LITTORIO probably proceeding Spezzia. (C. in C., Med. 1603/29 to Capt. S. 1.)

Greek Navy — Movements 30/3.
One submarine patrolling in Adriatic.
7 destroyers returning Piraeus through (? Elafhonise) One ship with one destroyer leaves Pireaus p.m. for Suda Bay. (N.A. Athens, 1637/29 to Admty.)

A.N. 23
G.A. 8 — S.S.T.O. Port Said No. 193.
Convoy A.N. 23 sailed Port Said p.m/28, Alexandria 0700/29 to arrive Piraeus via Anti Kithera 0900/1. G.A. 8 (15 knots) sailed Piraeus p.m/29 probably via Anti-Kithera. JUNO, JAGUAR, DEFENDER left Kithera patrol 0600/29 for Piraeus as escort for G.A. 8. 8. Greek destroyers returning to Piraeus from position west of Kithera. SOUTHERN MAID escorting one ship from Alexandria expected time of arrival Mersa Tobruk 1000/30. KINGSTON CRYSTAL with 3 ships sailed Alexandria 1700/29 for Mersa Tobruk. PROTECTOR sailed Piraeus for Alexandria p.m/29. DORSETSHIRE sailed Mersa Tobruk a.m/29 E.T.A., at Haifa 1800/31.
(C. in C., Med. 1829/29 to Med. Fleet)

Aircraft landing — Your 1712 and my 1120. Aircraft 7 G force landed Kithera Channel Islands. Crew safe. (Malcme 1851/29 to FORMIDABLE)

/R.A.F.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets. Contd.

R.A.F. Report of attacks on Enemy.

Operational Summary Number 292 up to 1200 hours. 29/3/41.
Greece. 28/3. During early afternoon 19 Blenheims dropped 18750 lbs bombs on Italian warships in position 35° 00' N., 20° 55' E., reported by flying boat reconnaissance. Strength of enemy 2 battleships 3 cruisers 3 destroyers. Direct hit one cruiser 500 lbs. S.A.P. bomb. Second cruiser 250 lb. S.A.P. bomb 1 destroyer 250 lbs. S.A.P. bomb. Several near misses. Damage to first cruiser forced it to stop. No R.A.F. casualties. British Naval forces subsequently gained contact and in series of night actions believed sank 2 enemy cruisers.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., No T.O.O./29)

LITTORIO VENETO escapes, cruisers sunk, destroyers sunk, 4 Swordfish lost, 1 crew safe.

My 0028/29. I much regret (? LITTORIO) who must be badly damaged below water, escaped during night action against enemy cruisers (? and) was not located by reconnaissance on 29th.
(ii) Three cruisers sunk for certain, viz,- ZARA, POLA, one name unascertained probably FIUME or BANDENERE class. It is even possible both of the last two were sunk. One destroyer of VINCENZO GIOBERTI class sunk for certain and probably two others. Considerable other damage was done including that by 23 Blenheims from Greece who attacked at 1500/28.
(iii) Three Swordfish were lost during operation (?,) one other crashed but crew safe. No other casualties reported.
(iv) Transferred 900 officers and men injured prisoners including Capt. Despisi of Cruiser POLA. Admiral Cantoni who was in (? ZARA) apparently lost. Italian C. in C., was in LITTORIO.
(v) Chase of LITTORIO broken off at 1100/29 after Fleet had returned to scene of night action to deal with any damaged ships which remained.

/vi).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Engagement between British & Italian Fleets, Contd.

(vi) Sorry to have had to abandon 200 to 300 men in rafts, crew of a sunken cruiser, owing to the presence of German aircraft. I informed Italian Chief of Naval Staff of position of these survivors by W/T.
(vii) Fuller account follows also suggested press communique. (C. in C., Med. 2207/29 to Admty.)

Proposed Press Communique

C. in C., Med. 2210/29 see Lion Copy.

Orders to RORQUAL

Comdr. (S) 1. 1403/22 and 1125/28
Proceed forthwith to establish patrol North of Straits of Messina to intercept damaged enemy ships particularly LITTORIO class battleship probably making for Spezia. Leave this area p.m./1 and return to Malta by route as previously ordered by Comdr. (S) 1. (Capt. S. 1. 2329/29 to RORQUAL)

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(General).

Defence Against 1-man torpedoes.

Warning re successful attack by six human torpedoes at Suda Bay. Instructions. (D.of L.D. 0016/29, 0016/29 "A" message). See HOME COMMANDS, Policy.

For defensive measures against human torpedoes, following information required. (D. of L.D. 1413/29 to C.in C. Med., repeated YORK).

BJONNESS, SOLHEIM.

(Reported sunk in Med. by enemy aircraft) Now known there is no ship of this name. Bjonness being the name of the master of Norwegian tanker SOLHEIM. (D.S. 571, 29/3).

Mediterranean.

CARNIA sunk and 1 M.V. damaged.

Italian supply ship 5451 tons. Greek Ministry of Marine announces sunk on 23/3 by S/M TRITON. A small ship was seriously damaged. (D.S.572).

Convoy A.N.23.

Proceed in company to join A.N.23. On joining DECOY remain with Convoy, WATERHEN to Alexandria for boiler cleaning. (C.in C. Med., 0902/29 to DECOY, WATERHEN) Convoy sailing telegram A.N.23 Alexandria sections. 0600/29 (iv) eight knots (v) as for Port Said Section. (vi) DECOY HERO.
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1135/29 to Admty etc.)
Following is repetition of DECOY's 1715/29 (N.T. in W.R.) S.B.N.O. Suda Bay From DECOY. Cancel my 1455/29. Am complying with C.in C's 0902/29. T.O.O. 1715/29. (Ends.)
(Malta W/T 1940/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Convoy A.N.23.

Consists of 16 ships escorted by COVENTRY, HERO and SALVIA. E.T.A. 0920/1.
(R.A.Alexandria, 0915/29 to Med. Fleet).

Hurricanes for Malta.

Flying limitations of Harricanes when fitted long range tanks render them ineffective as Fighters. Suggest two convoys of 6 Hurricanes each escorted by Skuas proceed in company without Sunderland escort from point of departure. Suggest convoys be routed across Tunisia and that Sunderland of Glenn Martin from Malta should meet them at (say) Sfax and lead into Malta.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0941/29 to Air Min:).

Pipe Line, Suez - Port Said.

Your 1950/16. Material and time required. Request report.
(4th S.L. 1106/29 to C.in C. Med.)

Exchange between AUCKLAND FLAMINGO and GNAT LADYBIRD.

C.in C. Med., 1126/29 See Mediterranean Volume.

Aircraft casualties.

Summary by types of category 3 R.A.F. aircraft casualties this Command due to enemy action and other causes from 1.1.1941. up to and including 28.3.1941.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1214/29 to Air Ministry)

Malta Air Raid, 28/3.

Enemy aircraft continued patrols round Island 2238 to 2350 hours approximately 14 aircraft flew over Island from North. No moon, very dark, no fighters up. Parachute flares dropped A.A. engaged unseen targets without results. Several bombs dropped in sea. Some dropped on land near Rabat, Dingli, Hal Far, Kalafrana. No service damage or casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1640/29).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

AJAX, PERTH, HASTY, DEFENDER.	AJAX, PERTH, HASTY, DEFENDER, pass anti Kithera Channel 0200. Destroyers E.T.A. Suda Bay, 0630. (AJAX 2046/29 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).
AJAX, PERTH, A.N.23.	AJAX and PERTH expect to arrive Piraeus 1400 to fuel, sailing on completion to cover A.N.23. (AJAX, 2136/29 to N.A.Athens, DECOY).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Italian Dhows in East Africa.	Can reply now be given to my 0712/21/3? Now 26, and owing to difficulty in feeding crews they have been sailed to Mombasa under safeguards. Military concur that selected Dhows should be released to carry on normal Coastal Trade, and Marshal of Prize Court has been asked that, subject to your approval, prize proceedings should be waived or formal only. (C.in C. E.I., 0658/29, to Admty.).
RANCHI CARTHAGE.	RANCHI is to leave East London a.m./31 and proceed 15 knots to position (x) given and is then to patrol between position (x) and position (t) (given) at 12 knots. My 0640/23. CARTHAGE is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban A.M./2. (C.in C. E.I., 0830Z/29, to RANCHI, CARTHAGE).
HECTOR, EMPRESS OF JAPAN.	My 0800/16, para. 2 (re sailing of EMPRESS OF JAPAN for Capetown) Intend HECTOR instead of CAPETOWN to escort EMPRESS OF JAPAN from Bombay probably to vicinity of Durban where escort will be changed. (C.in C. E.I., 0840/29 to COMORIN, HECTOR).
Convoy S.U.4.	S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1929/27. Concur (in postponement of sailing to 3/4.) (C.in C. E.I., 1052Z/29).
French Repatriations	Admty. 1607/25. Over 600 demobilized native troops with 11 white officers all from VILLE DE MAJUNGA are due to sail from Lourenco Marques on 1/4 for Reunion and Tamatave. They are due to sail in Portuguese ship INHARRIME by arrangement with Lisbon. Half of them are for Reunion. French authorities stated to have given satisfactory guarantee. (ii) British Consul General, Lourenco Marques, reports it might be disastrous to repatriation arrangements to land Reunion native troops at Tamatave. (iii) Understand Ministry of Shipping approved alternative arrangements (in the event of non-receipt of French guarantee) for landing these troops at Dar Es Salaam or Mombasa. (C.in C. E.I., 1100Z/29, to Admty.).

/ (iv) ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

French repatriations (Contd.)

They are at present in British Ship COLONIAL shortly due Lourenco Marques.
(iv) Will landing of 300 demobilized native troops in Reunion prejudice the operation referred to in A.M. 1607/25? If so request immediate instructions for disposal of both Madagascar and Reunion contingents.
(C.in C. E.I., 11022/29, to Admty.).

M.T.B.'s.

Your 1042/17. No allocation of M.T.B's to India is at present proposed and it is regretted that unless present priorities were radically altered no M.T.B's could be made available before 1943.
(A.C.N.S.(P) 1313/29 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Greek Ships.

Following Greek ships are carrying urgently required food supplies mainly wheat for Greece. Request they be given priority of movement as far as possible.
(D.T.D. 1942/29, to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. Med.).

China.

Indo-China Trade.

Your 1144/22/1. Grassoux agreed to temporary use of other Allied vessels normally engaged in Indo China trade so long as three Norwegian vessels named were not available. He has now drawn my attention to importance of using these three ships in order to avoid complications with Armistice Commission. Is it intended to make them available at some future date?
(C.in C. China, 02292/29 to Admty.).

RAMSES

7963 tons, reported by Press to have left Shanghai for Japan on 29/3. Had been in Shanghai since Sept. 1939. (D.S., 572).

ANNELIESE)
ESSBERGER)

Left Kobe 24/3, returned there 27/3.
(D.S. 572).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PORPOISE	To part company with Convoy H.X.116 and return to Halifax. (D.O.D.(K) 0008/29, to ROYAL SOVEREIGN PORPOISE).
FRANCO MARTELLI	Italian tanker left Pernambuco 1730/28 having cleared for Oslo. (D.D.I.C. 0700/29 to C.in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., W.A.N.P.).
MALANCHA Q Report.	Following has been read. QQQQ 45.33 N. 28.19 W. MALANCHA suspicious. (Lands End Radio, 1028/29).
A./.S. Vessels at Trinidad & Bermuda.	Situation. Asking if VISON or HUSKY can be retained at Trinidad until June (C.in C. A.W.I. 1031/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Lion Copy. Cancel my QQQQ of 1024/29, vessel friendly. (MALANCHA, 1048/29).
Suspicious Vessel sighted.	My 1031/28. Ship was fourmasted Motor Ship of German Type. (Details) My 2215/15 and S.O.(I) Montevideo's 2103Z/25/2 might refer to same Ship. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1032/29, to Admty.).
DRESDEN (German)	Reported left Santos 2240/28. (D.D.I.C. 1118/29 to C.in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P.).
MUNERIC, Q Report.	Following has been read. QQQQ. 46.15 N. 30. 35 W., MUNERIC suspicious (Valentia Radio, 1504/29). MUNERIC, cancel my 1504/29. Ends. (Valentia Radio 1523/29).
NORDERNEY MONBALDO AMABILITAS FRISCO FRANCO MARTELLI	Following information has been received from State Dept. indicating there is a general preparation for sailing of enemy Merchant vessels from Latin American Ports. From Para, 27/3 NORDERNEY completed loading and anchored with MONBALDO nine miles down river. (2) From Buenos Aires 27/3 AMABILITAS has received permission to connect wireless and is preparing to leave Bahia. Two Italian vessels at Necochea preparing to sail.

/(3) ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

NORDERNEY
MONBALDO
ANABILITAS
FRISCO
FRANCO MARTELLI

(3) From Rio 28/3 German and Italian ships preparing to leave from Rio Santos Rio. Andalusia Recife. FRISCO at Forsythaleza has applied for clearance for Oslo.
(4) From Para, West Indies, NECOCHEA returned and anchored in foreign stream.
(5) From Pernambuco, 28/3 FRANCO MARTELLI reported ready to leave with cargo of fuel oil.
(N.A. Washington, 1140/29 to Admty).

T.C. 10

Your 1736/27. Ocean escort will not be available before (date).
(D.O.D. (H) 1205/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X. 118

Your 1050/9/2. Intend using Belgian S.S. JEAN JADOT as Cdre. ship for Adml. Austin, H.X. 118. No other suitable ship except DALHOUSIE destination London. Request approval.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1424/29 to Admty) Reply See 1302/30.

MOORBY
suspicious smoke, 26/3.

British MOORBY reported to Cape Race that at 2100 G.M.T./26 in 45° 35'N 44° 26'W. she sighted a volume of black smoke on the horizon, possibly vessel on fire, also second vessel in close proximity heading away eastward apparently at high speed. Vessels too distant for description to be obtained.
(D.D.I.C. 1447/29. to C in C H.F. RODNEY KING GEORGE V, F.O.C.N.A.)

Report of suspicious vessel's position by KING EDWARD.

Your 1031/28. Request particulars and reasons why report was not made at the time by W/T
(C in C A.W.I. 1633/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U.S. Coast-guard Cutters.

My 2142/28. Ten coastguard cutters are being made available for transfer. Desired to take them over in U.S. ports, crews being provided from ships' companies of MALAYA and RESOLUTION additional officers and ratings being sent in RESOLUTION and QUEEN ELIZABETH. Capt. Palliser of MALAYA is to make necessary arrangements in conjunction with you. Reply required whether transfer can take place in U.S. and if so dates and ports proposed. Confirm

whether.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Coast-guard Cutters.	whether vessels are of 20 knot or 16 knot type. (1st S.L. 1752/29, to N.A. Washington.).
TAYBANK Q Report.	Following has been read. QQQQ Disguised Merchant Raider, unread position, 31° 15' W TAYBANK, suspicious. (Lands End Radio 1927/29). Cancel my QQQQ TAYBANK. (Lands End Radio, 2000/29).
MALAYA	L/T message originating from MALAYA indicate ship arrived Trinidad A.M./29 Routine report not yet received. (C in C A.W.I. 2232/29, to Admty). Your 1012/28. Diving under difficult conditions so far discloses no large hole in ship's side. If confirmed tomorrow consider ship fit to proceed after further shoring. Intend to sail tomorrow-night. Anticipate arrival New York 6/4 subject to weather conditions. (MALAYA, 2347Z/29 to C in C A.W.I.)
A/S Forces Western Atlantic.	The U-Boat threat to Canada's Atlantic Approaches has not, at present, materialised Suggested therefore, that, for present , following precautionary action only should be taken. Next 12 Corvettes to complete in Canada be retained in Dominion. TOWN Class destroyers refitting in Canada to be retained. Any withdrawal of destroyers from vitally important N W Approaches to this country on Western Atlantic seaboard actually develops. (1st S.L. 2254/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HYLTON

British, 5197 tons, in Convoy H.X. 115 Following received from O i/c Resolution Island begins - 0437 G.M.T. "SSS 6118 N 2205 W HYLTON torpedoed" bearing 74 approx uncalibrated (ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0357/29 to Admty).

ATHEL PRINCE
MASUNDA.

British 8782 tons, 5250 tons both in Convoy H X 115. Following has been read:- SSSS de GKR (Wick Radio) 61 19N. 21 57W. ATHEL PRINCE and MASUNDA torpedoed. (? 0508/29) W.D. Note. ATHEL PRINCE and MASUNDA were erroneously reported as torpedoed. For correct names see 1520/29. Proceed to assist HYLTON ATHEL PRINCE MASUNDA torpedoed in approx 061° 18' N 022° 05' W at 0535/29).
(C in C W.A. 0616/29 to KINGCUP.)
Detach 1 destroyer to assistance of HYLTON ATHEL PRINCE and MASUNDA.
(C in C W.A. 0657/29 to VENOMOUS.)

HYLTON
GERMANIC.

HYLTON and GERMANIC (British 5352 tons, in H X 115) still floating have towed survivors back to ship. DIANELLA with no A/S standing by am searching for U boat with MANOWA and NORTHERN DAWN. My position 061° 18' N 022° 05' W.
(SABRE 1020/29 to VENOMOUS READING).
Complete crew of HYLTON and my staff on board. 35 survivors from GERMANIC on board Permission requested for DIANELLA proceed direct to Clyde or Londonderry.
(Adml. Ramsay in DIANELLA 1231/29 to C in C W.A.)
KINGCUP remain with any damaged ships still afloat. Report situation. Destroyer detailed for this duty is to join H X 115 before dark/29 if situation permits.
(C in C W.A. 1436/29 to KINGCUP)
Large Vessel Wreck 61° 11' N 23° 7' W Timber and empty boats near Tomen seen 30 feet bow above water.
(Q/20 1500/29 to 18 Group).

LIMBOURG.. .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

LIMBOURG	Following for C. in C., from READING. Correct neames of ships torpedoed in H.X. 115 are HYLTON, GERMANIC, LIMBOURG. (Q/201 1520/29 to 18 Group) LIMBOURG Belgian 2396 tons, in convoy H.X. 115. Proceed direct not through Minches forthwith to assist HYLTON and GERMANIC torpedoed in 061 18 N., 022 05 W. Trawler escort is being provided. (F.O.I.C., Greenock. 1922/29 to PRUDENT, TENACITY)
ERODONA (torpedoed 16/3)	Settled several feet but has now stopped sinking. No more oil leaking THAMES considers expected arrival midnight tonight or early tomorrow depending on conditions. Position 240° Skagi 5 miles. (VISENDA 0800/29 to F.O.I.C., Iceland)
CITY OF DIEPPE	Following has been read. 36.38 N., 6.15 W CITY OF DIEPPE chased by submarine. (Lands End Radio, 0854/29) See also North Atlantic for earlier "Q" Report.
ANDALUSIAN (torpedoed 17/3)	Your 1153/27 19 survivors of ANDALUSIAN were rescued from Island of Boavista on 22/3.
MALANCHA (missed 23/3)	MALANCHA made following signal at 1845/23 S.S.S. 19.59 N., 26.27 W. missed by torpedo. This telegram was received by Portuguese authorities but not passed to N.C.S.O. SS (?STEAD DE MAIA) sailed midnight/23 to search position indicated, returning 26/3 with nothing to report or seen. (Consul St. Vincent C.V., 1135/29 to D.N.I.
MANDALIKA (torpedoed 18/3)	Ref. I D form S.A. Dutch ship MANDALIKA ex-German NORDMARK (Rotterdam Lloyds) hit by one torpedo fired by S/M while in Convoy at 2330 Z plus 1 on 18/3 in 18.30 N., 21.20 W., S/M trimmed down on surface observed immediately after torpedo hit, steering similar course to Convoy one cable two points before port beam. Ship abandoned well down about 0030 but was not seen to sink. S/M withdrew after attack. Position of ship in Convoy leader of starboard wing column. Convoy No 121 3 killed, 62 survivors. (N.C.S.O. Freetown. 2201N/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.3.1941.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

0630 — One Battle aircraft from Reykjavik ordered to position 061° 19' N 021° 57' W to hunt. (C in C Rosyth 0630/29 to VENOMOUS READING etc. amended 0926/29) (see ships attacked)

0800 — Request escort by Battle aircraft for convoy position on 29/3 at 0800 hrs. 61 27 N. 21 00 W. approx 130 miles S of Reykjavik. Convoy being attacked by U-boat. Course East speed eight knots. (War Office 0955/29 to G.O.C. Iceland Force

0921 — At 0921/29 Italian S/M Bearings 290° Second Class.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0959/29 to N.A. Stations.)

1234 — An Enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit.
(D.D.I.C. 1234/29 to W Approaches H.Q.C.C.)
My 1234"29. Probable that formation reported was O.B. 302 HX 115 or KING GEORGE V.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/29).
My 1300/29. It is evident that Convoy HX 115 or OB 302 is being shadowed and reported by U-boat. There are two or more U boats in the vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1843/29 to W. App. KING GEORGE V VENOMOUS H.Q.C.C. SABRE DIONELLA.

1343 — D/F indications that HX 56 is being shadowed by U-boat.
(D.D.I.C. 1343/29 to W Approaches KENYA).

1505 — U boat has reported your position at 0636. It is possible that two U boats are shadowing you.
(C in C W.A. 1505/29 to LEGION SCIMITAR).

1755.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's reported.(contd.)

1755 — 1 Submarine bearing 066° distant 10 miles approx true course unknown, position 60° 15' N 190° 57' W. based on a fix obtained at 1400.
(KING GEORGE V 1755/29 to Scapa W/T).

2100/28 — Received by Wick Radio. From S.S. LYRA Sighted in 60° 03' N 9° 11' W 28/3 at 2100 B.S.T. suspected U boat on surface.
(Scapa W/T 2217/29).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — (D.D.I.C. 1410/29. F.O.S. 1656/29).

S/M's Attacked.

1602 — U/B attacked 1602/29 by A/C 60 50 N 22.30 W 335' N.W. x W of Rockall. Dropped 1 250 lb bomb No hit.
(D.S. 572).

MOST SECRET.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU.

R/C today indicates that the two ships are still in the same position in Brest. (one in dock).

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Air patrols were carried out today between Iceland and Faeroes to intercept SCHEER if she is making for Germany.

C.S.2. (GALATEA) proceeded today with ARETHUSA to patrol between Iceland and Faeroes to intercept. AURORA returned to Scapa with DIDO.

No further information having been received by noon, KING GEORGE V proceeded to Scapa.

British Air Activity.

Special patrols were flown today and tonight to locate the enemy battle cruisers if they left Brest and also between Iceland and Faeroes to locate ADMIRAL SCHEER if she is making for Germany.

All routine patrols by Coastal Command were cancelled on account of bad weather except a sweep to the Heligoland Bight and a patrol in the Southern part of the North Sea. The usual anti-E/Boat patrol was carried out at dusk.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

MENDIP VERDUN and Convoy F.S.49 were attacked twice this morning in the Thames Approaches. S.S. GRASLIN was slightly damaged.

WALKER and Convoy O.G.57 were attacked today in 54° 33'N., 14° 15'W at 0917.

SEAWOLF was attacked at 1440 off Berwick by an aircraft identified by 2 officers as a Blenheim, with enemy markings. Apparently towing some explosive object. SEAWOLF was not damaged.

Iceland to Shetland.

CAROLINA THORDEN (bombed 26/3) was again unsuccessfully attacked at the Faeroes this evening. Trawler CHANDOS was machine gunned and her skipper was killed and 1 hand wounded.

A E S No. 4 was unsuccessfully attacked this morning. Since 1725/26 there have been 3 attacks on A M E S and one on A E S in Unst A M E. S M. at Thrumster (near Wick) was also attacked but only slight damage to huts was caused.

A trawler was attacked East of Nolso (Thorshaven) this evening.

A F.W. flew over ships in Reykjavik harbour this morning, apparently on photographic R/C.

MOST SECRET.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operations Z.M.E.26.

PLOVER laid mines last night off the approaches to Bristol Channel.

Mining of Humber.

The Humber was reopened at 1102 today but was closed at 2321 after some 26 aircraft apparently minelaying (chiefly to seaward of Spurn Point) had been over the mouth of the river between 2050 and 2315. Previous to this, several mines were detonated off Spurn Point.

Avonmouth was reopened at 1914. Restrictions on Aberdeen were withdrawn at 1233.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Ration".

SHEFFIELD with FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER and FEARLESS this morning intercepted a French eastbound slow convoy consisting of S.S. BANKOR, SAN DIEGO, CAP VARELLA, AZROU escorted by French destroyer SIMOUN off Nemours. The convoy refused to stop and retired into Numours. The shore batteries opened fire on SHEFFIELD and destroyers and SHEFFIELD replied and withdrew. SIMOUN took no part. SHEFFIELD was attacked by Glenn Martin A/C's at 1217 and again at 1301, but was not hit.

/The Admiralty

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation "Ration". (Contd.)

The Admiralty ordered a further attempt to be made to intercept the convoy tonight. SHEFFIELD was sighted and unsuccessfully bombed at 1810 whilst steering to the eastward, about 8 miles east of Gibraltar, and since the enemy were forewarned and for other reasons, F.O.C.N.A. cancelled the operation and the ships returned to Gibraltar at 2300.

Air Activities.

Bombs were dropped in various localities on Malta last night, and again this afternoon, many in the sea. No damage or casualties occurred.

Wellingtons bombed docks and petrol installations at Tripoli last night. Blenheims bombed shipping in and near Astropalia, Dodecanese today.

Aftermath of Fleet action.

Sunderland reconnaissances 29/30 March sighted oil patches, unidentified wreckage and rafts with Italian survivors in the area between 120 and 180 miles West of Crete where the Fleet action was fought.

East Indies.

BERTRAM RICKMERS scuttled.

R.A.F. reconnaissance reported a merchant ship leaving Massawa at midday yesterday and its position early this morning. KANDAHAR intercepted the ship, S.S. BERTRAM RICKMERS (German) at 0750 G.M.T. in 14° 7'N., 41° 42'E., off the coast of Eritrea 60 miles S.W. of Massawa. BERTRAM RICKMERS abandoned ship on sighting and fired scuttling charges. Ship was still afloat at 1000 G.M.T./30 anchored in 14.06N., 41.40E., Crew escaped ashore except 2 engineers, as KANDAHAR had no power boat.

/The dispositions

MOST SECRET.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Dispositions in Red Sea.

The dispositions which S.N.O. Red Sea will maintain to deal with the six Italian destroyers at Massawa and the escape of enemy merchant vessels, are detailed in C.in C. E.I. 1906Z/30.

America and West Indies.

C.in C. A.W.I. points out that demands for U.S. Govt., and private traffic on our cable and wireless communications in the America and West Indies, which are now working to full capacity, may choke our own vital communications; and we should plan ahead and be ready with a scheme of expansion.

A.M.C. CALIFORNIA picked up, at 0517Z/30 39 survivors from British COULTARN in 60.18N., 29.28W. This ship was in Convoy O.B. 302 for mobile. It is not stated by what means she was sunk.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.
Proposed Air Attack.

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were known on 27th to have been in Brest. Up to present they have not been subject to any serious attack, whereas many tons of bombs have been dropped on other targets in Germany which like the poor are always with us. Hitler's avowed intention is to wage war on our shipping and these two ships constitute the most potential weapon he possesses. They are now lying within easy striking distance but may leave at any moment. I consider it vital that maximum possible air attack should be directed against these ships now and sustained at expense of all other targets until they are out of range or have been destroyed. (C. in C. Plymouth 1305/30.).

Disposition of M.L. Flotillas.

Your 1819/18. A considerable number of M.L's are now completed and operating but the following considerations have led to the diversion of the boats which would have been placed under your Command to other duties:-
(a) Cessation of coastal operations by U-boats.
(b) Unsuitability of boats for operating on the West Coast in winter.
(c) Urgency of air rescue work.
(d) Need for anti-E-boat escorts on the East Coast.
2. The following is the present position. It is under consideration to send the 18th Flotilla to operate from Stornoway; it is due to commence to form in May.
3. Request your remarks. (D. A/S. W.1416/30 to C. in C. W.A.).

Lamlash Examination Service.

Lamlash examination service will come into operation on 31/3. (D.T.D. 1500/30.).

Status of M/V. Masters.

It has been suggested that para.2 (i) of Adty., message 2109/6/7/40 might, if it or orders based on it fell into the hands of the enemy, prejudice the civilian status of the masters of merchant ships and render them liable to action by the enemy as "franc tireur".
2. Paragraph 2 (i) of the above quoted signal is therefore to be cancelled and following substituted:-
All defensively equipped ships to be berthed

/so that their..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

Status of M/V. Masters. so that their guns can be used to the best advantage in defence.
3. A corresponding amendment is to be made in para. 8 (1) of ALM/LD01893/41 dated 3/3/41. (A.C.M.S.T. 2010/30.).

Defence of U.K.

Orkneys A/A.Guns. Meeting of reconnaissance party in accordance with your 1330/15 was held this morning. Meeting unanimously agreed that no withdrawal of light A.A. guns could be accepted before replacement. (A.C.O.S. 1317/30.).

Campbeltown. Defences. Adty., 1702/20. Defences at Cambeltown are completed. (GUARDIAN 2100/20.).

Movements.

WHITSHED WORCESTER. Provide cover for FN 47 and FS.50 tonight arranging your movements as circumstances require. (C. in C. Nore 0942/30th to D.16.).

Operations.

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER. Adty., 2106/29, Indication that this may possibly be ADMIRAL SCHEER homeward bound. Proceed with 2nd C.S. and DIDO towards 064° N., 001° W. Object is to intercept. (C. in C. H.F. 0025/30 to C.S.2.).
Scapa departures F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA with AURORA, ARETHUSA, and DIDO. (A.C.O.S. 0358/30.).
My 2332/29. If no further information is received by 1200/30 proceed Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 0929/30 to KING GEORGE V.).

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER. — Proceed with GALATEA and ARETHUSA to establish patrol in accordance with my 1512/26 between T.R.36 patrol line and Iceland. (ii) DIDO and AURORA are to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1237/30 to C.S.2.).

East Coast Patrols. — Tonight following auxiliary patrols positions will not be filled: (A) 5 buoy (B) 5 buoy to Hearty Knoll (C) Sheringham Buoy (D) 57 C to 58 Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 0934/30.).

CAIRNDALE. — Admiralty's 1751/24, 2227/24 and F.O.C. N.A. 1200/25, which was approved by Admiralty. F.O.C.N.A., 1748/25, 1216/27, and 0252/29/, are passed to you for information. (A.C.N.S.F. 1130/30 to B.C.I., and C. in C. H.F.).

Bay of Biscay. S/M Patrol.

UNION, H.32, O.9, TUNA, TORBAY, OBERON, L.27. — Movements. (C. in C. Plymouth Ltr. S.S.1444/30.). F.O.S. 1847/30, 1049/3

Strength of Patrol. — The number of S/MS in numbered patrol positions in the Bay of Biscay will be as follows 31/3 - 11, 1/4 - 15, 2/4 - 18, 4/4 - 17, 5/4 - 15, 7/4 - 6, 8/4 - 4, 9/4 - 1, 11/4 nil. (F.O.S. 1732/30.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2332/29 passed to you. Request air patrol FUGLE from daylight tomorrow. Object is to intercept enemy warship passing from West to East.(C. in C. H.F. 0045/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.).
Sunderland A/C leaves Sullom Voe at daylight to carry out B patrol FUGLE Cross over patrol as follows. A/C. should be able to remain on patrol for about 6½ hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 0146/30.).
Your 0146/30. Request patrol may be moved from D to mean line between position (A) 090° N., 013° W. (B) 063° 30' N.,010°W. (C. in C. H.F. 0916/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.).
My 0916/30. Para. (A) for 64° N., read 65° N.(C. in C. H.F. 1001/30 to C. in C.Rosyth.).
Following Patrols tomorrow.
(1) Cross over by Sunderland from about 1300 till 1900 as follows.
(2) Patrol off South of Iceland by Battles depending on availability of A/C.
(3) Patrol by Sunderland from 1400 till dusk as follows.(C. in C. Rosyth 1924/30.).
Patrols tomorrow in addition to those in my 1924/30. TROST, STAB, BERT, STAND, HORNLI.
Patrols to reach Norwegian Coast 1600/31.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1938/30.).
PL/G22/30/3. Ref. PL/G14/30/3. It is appreciated that the enemy battle cruisers may sail at any time during the hours of darkness. In order that they should not do so undetected the following cross over patrol is to be maintained from 0730/31 until it is established by reconnaissance that the battle cruisers are still in Brest.
(H.Q. 19 Group 2010/30 to St. Eval.).
PL/G24/30/3. In order to establish that two enemy Cruisers are still in Brest Harbour one Fighter Blenheim is to carry out a visual R/c. of Brest at first light.
(H.Q. 19 Group 2050/30 to St. Eval.).

Escorts. Cancel my 2350/29. No air escort available today till 1630 when expect 15 Group Sunderland. Whitley aircraft of 18 Group take over from about 2030/30 to 0800/31.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0640/30 to VENOMOUS,etc.).

/My 0640/30.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.3.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

My 0640/30. Owing to weather all air escorts cancelled until daylight. 31st. (C. in C. Rosyth 1536/30 to VENOMOUS,etc.).

Bombing Restrictions. Operation G.Z. Request bombing restrictions in area between 50° N., and 48°, N., and 050° W.,and 06° W., from 2030/30 till 0600/31. (C. in C. Plymouth 1159/30 to H.Q.C.C.).

Summary of Operations. 1. Day 29 March. 4 Blenheims completed a sweep off the Belgian Coast, one of them attacked a single funnelled tanker of 5,000 tons escorted by six Flakships at 51° 27' N. 3° 25' E. One of the Flakships was machine-gunned. (H.Q.B.C. 1705/30.).

Kites in W.A.Command. Kites are not to be flown at night in W.A. Command when air escort is present. (C. in C. W.A. 1835/30.).

Alleged firing on own A/C on 24/3. (Adty. 1812/29.). No Vessels in or off Yarmouth fired on Blenheim on the afternoon of 24/3. The report apparently came from a Policeman who saw neither flash or smoke of discharge or shell burst. He also states machine after circling the Town again proceeded seaward flying level on a steady course and no faltering of engine. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1930/30.).

Thames Estuary Balloon Barrage. C. in C. Nore reports following received from 952 Squadron begins:-
A.A. Command and 30 Group have instructed barrage in Thames Estuary to be close-hauled during hours of darkness tonight request instructions ends 1240. Close-hauling has been agreed to for the present. It would be much appreciated if proposals for altering the operation orders of the balloon barrage could be made known to me before orders are given to 952 Squadron which conflict with existing agreed procedur Consider use of balloons at operational height has been important factor in

inducing

/minelaying.....

War Diary. 30.3.41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Thames Estuary Balloon Barrage. minelaying aircraft to drop at over 6000 feet thus spoiling accuracy and apparently causing large proportion of prematures. Request barrage at operational height may be restored during next moonlight period, April 4th to 14th whenever minelaying is expected and on other occasions when it appears beneficial to do so. At least half an hour's warning is required. 1054/29. Ends. 2. Request your remarks. (D. of L.D. 2009/30 to Air Ministry.).

Enemy Air Activity.

OILTRADER. (Bombed 29/3.). Following received from BASSET. OILTRADER sunk by bombs in 325° 3 miles and ½ from No. 5 Buoy. Have 33 survivors. Anchoring near Cork Light Vessel tonight.
LS TIGER has proceeded with convoy and 18 survivors. All lives saved. 2125/29. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0043/30.).

Convoy W.N.Even. Fighters are being sent to the assistance of even numbered WN convoy. (Lyness W/T 0904/30.).

Convoy F.S.49. Convoy being attacked by aircraft. (MENDIP 0915/30.).
My 0915. Enemy aircraft bombing, my position 51° 52' N., 1° 36' E. (MENDIP 0916/30.).
My 0916, 2 bombs no hits. (MENDIP 0921/30.).
One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy F.S.49 bearing 110° 2000 feet my position 51° 48' N., 1° 31' E. (VERDUN 0922/30.).
1 Aircraft attacking convoy Plumb my position 51° 47' N., 1° 31' E.(MENDIP 1010/30.).

/Convoy .....

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.Contd.

Convoy CLASH.	Convoy CLASH being bombed. My position 54° 33' N., 14° 15' W. (WALKER 0917/30.).
Shetlands bombed.	Following received from M.O.I.C. Lerwick begins: At 0351/30 A E S No.4 reported being bombed and machine gunned. Subsequent report at 0355 reported one large calibre bomb dropped causing no casualties or damage. A good burst of M/G fire was returned from ground defences. T O O 0909 Ends. Since 1725/26th there have been 3 attacks on A.M.E.S. and 1 on A.E.S. in Unst. (A.C.O.S. 1120/30.).
A/C over Iceland.	One enemy aircraft F.W.type flew over ships in Reykjavik Harbour at 1010 this morning height 8000 feet. R.A.F. think on photographic R/c. No bombs dropped. A.A. fire was opened by ships and land batteries. Six Battle planes chased raider away. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1146/30, G.O.C. Iceland 1434/30.).
Convoy F.S.Even.	Convoy ARENA is being shadowed by one enemy airplane. My position 54° 7' N., 0° 1' E. (EGLINTON 1216/30.). 2 Enemy aircraft shadowing Convoy Arena my position 53° 22' N., 0° 58'E. (SOUTHDOWN 1857/30.).
Thrumster. A.M.E. Station bombed.	My 1120/30. At 0835 an enemy A/C also attacked A.M.E.SM.at Thrumster near Wick. Two or three bombs were dropped and E/A machine gunned station. No casualties and only slight damage to huts. (A.C.O.S. 1240/30.).
SEAWOLF attacked.	SEAWOLF reports at 1440 in 56° 02' N.,02° 20' W., aircraft identified by two officers as Blenheim appeared from west and circled submarine.

/Black crosses.....

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

SEAWOLF attacked. Black crosses were then noticed and SEAWOLF dived to 90 feet for 7 minutes. On return to periscope depth aircraft was seen approaching from astern at about 100 feet towing object in appearance like a bag just above surface of water. Submarine went deep and on passing 41 feet close explosion was heard. Submarine sustained no damage or casualties. (FYTCHLEY 1445/30. S.9. 1959/30.).

Trawler attacked. Help Thorshaven. (Thorshaven W/T 1909/30). Trawler being attacked east of Nolso. (Thorshaven W/T 1910/30.).

Enemy A/C. E.W. reported in 63° 30' N., 19° 00' W., at 1140/30. Course East. (D.D.I.C.1925/30-

Mining.

Z.M.E.26. Operation Z M E 26 completed. (PLOVER 0901/30.).

P:W:7. Prepare to carry out P W (7) as amended by my 1234/29 on first suitable night. Report when ready. (C. in C. Nore 1008/30 to BEEHIVE.).

Humber. Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1102/30.).
Humber closed to navigation. About 26 aircraft over the Mouth of the Humber between 2050 and 2315 today, apparently minelaying although very few inside Spurn Point. Anticipated time of opening 1100 tomorrow. (F.O. Humber 2321/30.).

/Moray Firth.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.41. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Moray Firth. Searching Sweep.	Commencing from No. 32 Buoy at 0530/1st., available ships for 5th M.S.F. are to carry out searching sweeps as follows:- (C. in C. Rosyth 1117/30 and 1655/1.).
Aberdeen.	Restriction in my 1131/30/2/41 now removed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1233/30.).
Operation G.Z.	Departure 20th D.F. less EXPRESS. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1404/30.). Sailed 1730. KELLY, KASHMIR, JACKAL, KELVIN. (C. in C. Plymouth 1815/30.).
Spurn Point.	Following three mines were detonated by LL trawlers today. Details.(F.O. Humber 1849/30)
Avonmouth.	My 2318/29. Ships may now enter and leave Avonmouth. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1914/30.).
Enemy Unit.	My 2106/29. Nature of traffic indicates that unit is a warship possibly SCHEER. (D.D.I.C. 0003/30.).
3 M/V's.	Aircraft report at 1806/29. Three Merchant ships between 1500 and 2000 tons in 047° 14' 005° 15' W. Course 140° speed 6 knots. (F.O.S. 0101/30 to TIGRIS.).
SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU. 3 M/V's.	Reconnaissance indicates two ships, probably SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU, still in same position in Brest. Three Merchant ships are reported in Chenal Du Four East of Ushant 3 miles West of Pointe de Corsen course 360 at 0735/30.). (C. in C. Plymouth 1459/30 to D.5, D.20.).
Surface Craft.	Bearing, probably of surface craft, obtained at 2114/30. Scarborough 000/3.(D.D.I.C. 2230/30.).
E-Boats.	Possible E-boat activity at 2212 near 57A buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2235/30.).

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GARTH. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0752/30.).
Request you sail GARTH in tow of tug DIVERSION and escorted by PUFFIN for Shoebuross A.M. today. Fighter protection has been asked for. (C. in C. Nore 1026/30 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.).
Departures GARTH towed by tug DIVERSION and escorted by PUFFIN at 1112.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1116/30.).

OURAGAN. OURAGAN returning to Greenock with engine defects. (Capt. D.3. 1442/30.).
Starboard propeller is causing considerable vibration. Cause unknown. Am returning to harbour. E.T.A. 1500/31. (OURAGAN 1900/30.).

MELROSE ABBEY. (Grounded 28/3.). Grounded one mile North of River Ythan Aberdeenshire at 0430/28/3. Prospects of salvage are good but will certainly be prolonged. (C. in C. Rosyth 1935/30.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration."

Your 0026/30. Appearance of BANGKOK does not agree with that given in Adty. 1429/14. Tangier's 1850/28 to F.O. and message 1300/29 from Tangier may be correct. (F.O.C.N.A., 0410/30 to Admty.).

SHEFFIELD in action with Nemours Battery.

Am withdrawing, ships are under cover of shore guns. (SHEFFIELD, 0954/30, to F.O.C.N.A.).
SHEFFIELD and Destroyers carrying out "RATION" in 035° 18' N. 001° 52' W. at 0855/30.
SHEFFIELD reports shore battery has opened fire, SHEFFIELD is replying.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1004/30, to Admty.).
Convoy refused to stop and retired into Nemours where shore battery opened fire with 6-inch on SHEFFIELD and destroyers. SHEFFIELD replied and battery was repeatedly hit and large fire seen. Have withdrawn the whole force. Battery was well clear of town. French Dest. SIMOUN took no part. Request instructions.
(SHEFFIELD, 1005/30, to F.O.C.N.A.).
Do not hesitate to withdraw if you consider there is no prospect of carrying out operation successfully.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1040/30, to SHEFFIELD).

Enemy Air Attack on SHEFFIELD

Enemy aircraft bombing.
(SHEFFIELD, 1217/30 to Gibraltar).
6 aircraft in sight, approx. course 000, approx. height 11,000 feet, my position obtained from a fix within ½ hour of 1000 - 35.38 N., 02.53 W.
(SHEFFIELD, 1219/30, to Gibraltar).
6 Glen Martins attacked, no hits.
(SHEFFIELD, 1235/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).
Bombed 2nd time. 5 Glen Martins. No hits.
(SHEFFIELD, 1301/30, to Gib. W/T).
SHEFFIELD to signal immediately full report including information as to to time and position in which convoy was first ordered to stop and all subsequent movements and action taken. (V.C.N.S. 1428/30 to SHEFFIELD).

Report from SHEFFIELD.

SHEFFIELD in 035° 30' N. 001° 51' W. sighted French Convoy at 0800 bearing 205° 14 miles. Destroyers who were spread were concentrated and at 0840 Capt. (D) 8 proceeded at 25 knots to intercept. Convoy scattered to Southward and SIMOUN exchanged signals with Capt.(D) 8

/ "You are ...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Report from SHEFFIELD. (contd.)

"You are inside territorial waters. I cannot allow you to interfere with convoy. I give you my word of honour that ships are destined with feeding for people of France. I beg you to let them pass". Destroyers closed each ship and signalled them to stop but they proceeded slowly towards Nemours. At 0946 a shore battery opened at a range 12000 yards on SHEFFIELD. Destroyers and convoy were all inshore of SHEFFIELD. SHEFFIELD replied with six broadsides and fire ceased. SHEFFIELD also ceased to avoid bloodshed. Five minutes later shore batteries opened fire on inshore Destroyers and SHEFFIELD replied causing a heavy explosion, probably the magazines. The passive resistance of the French left no alternative but to torpedo the convoy which was completely at my mercy, or to withdraw. I decided to withdraw rather than cause a serious international incident and break international law. Force was bombed by 10 Glen Martins during retirement.
(SHEFFIELD, 1515/30, to A.)
Add to my 1515/30. Admty. 0026/30 had not been received by me until 1930/30.
(SHEFFIELD, 1836/30).

Operation to be renewed.

A further attempt should be made to intercept convoy during dark hours tonight, if they proceed to sea again.
Possible presence of French submarines should be allowed for.
In view of rubber having been unloaded from BANGKOK, instructions for sinking this ship in my 0026/30 are cancelled.
(V.C.N.S. 1544/30, to F.O.C.N.A.).

Advice to Abandon Operation.

Weather precludes any air R/C tonight. Consider passage between Nemours and (?Oran) would probably be made in daylight and ships may be at Oran by now as their bombers will have informed them of withdrawal of our forces now in sight of Gibraltar. Alternatively convoy may have no intention of proceeding beyond Nemours and intend to discharge there.

/ As weather was unfit ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Advice to Abandon Operation.

As weather was unfit for boarding this morning conditions are probably worse now, this reduces operation to coercing ships to proceed to Gibraltar or sink them with inevitable loss of life.
To search coast in darkness close in shore in bad weather with lights probably extinguished appears to me to invite disaster. Consider it would be wise to abandon operation. An additional consideration is that at moment there are two loaded troop ships and one aircraft carrier in Gibraltar and that within next three days two more carriers and two battle cruisers will arrive.
My 1750. SHEFFIELD now being bombed about eight miles east of Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1819/30 to Admty.).
My 1810. SHEFFIELD reports no hit. (F.O.C.N.A., 1822/30, to Admty.).
Advise Admiralty quickly air raid Gibraltar - warship being bombed.
(Cable Supt. Gibraltar, 1815/30 to Admty.).
ALL CLEAR, 1853/30.
Ref. Cable Supt. Gibraltar's 1815/30.
Was Gibraltar bombed or SHEFFIELD only?
(1st S.L. 2218/30 to Admty.).
Your 2218/30. Gibraltar has not been bombed yet. SHEFFIELD was bombed but not hit about 8 miles from Rock. (F.O.C.N.A.,2332/30,to Adty.)
My 1800/29 (T.H.I. 1340/29) following from equally reliable source.
Rubber ex S.S. BANGKOK sent overland to Algeria during last ten days. S.S. completed loading vegetable fibre and other produce 27/3 and was expected to clear for Marseilles at any time.
(Consul Gen., Tangier, 1915/30, to Admty.).

Renewal Abandoned.

My 1725. Adty. directed that further attempt to intercept convoy should be made during darkness tonight 30/31 but you (?have) been sighted and bombed while (?steering) to eastwards I consider there is virtually no chance of your being able to do so.
Return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1916/30, to SHEFFIELD).

S.S. GAZA, Portuguese, intercepted.

In 035° 39' 017° 02' following enemy nationals are on board. All bound for U.S.A. Ship has no route from N.C.S.O. Proceeding with her, keeping touch with convoy pending your decision (?which) nationals are to be removed. (ENCLANTRESS, 1230/30, to F.O.C.N.A.)

/ My 1130, ...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

S.S. GAZA, Portuguese, intercepted. (contd.)	My 1130, passengers have American visas issued Lisbon and claim to be refugees. Search revealed 2 non-suspect Portuguese stowaway. (ENCHANTRESS, 1237/30).
MARKUNDA	Is proceeding to Gibraltar for onward passage to U.K. and is not with an S.L. Convoy. (D.T.D. 1238/20 to C.in C. W.A.).
MIRROR	Your 1232/23/3. Cable operations. Proposal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/30 to Admty.). Approved (D.S.D., 1208/1).
CAIRNDALE	CAIRNDALE sailed before receipt of your 2318/25. BIDEFORD expected to sail before return of CAIRNDALE. Request arrangements be made for relief of HOOD in normal manner. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1306/30 to Admty.).
Malta Hurricanes.	No communication arrangement for operation. (F.O.C.N.A. to S.O. Force H, 2030/30).

South Atlantic.

FRANCO MARTELLI DRESDEN	My 0700/29 and my 1116/29 are being passed to you. (H.W.R. 0750/30 to C.in C. S.A.). Both addressed F.O.C.N.A. and C.in C., A.W.I. and concern movements of Italian tanker FRANCO MARTELLI and German ship DRESDEN respectively. Messages have also been passed to R.A.S.A.D.
ORMONDE	Simonstown Dockyard reports ready to sail Capetown 31/3 with 350 service personnel, no escort available unless ship is held until EMPRESS OF JAPAN is ready to sail with CATHAY about 17/4. Intend she shall sail without escort. Should she come to Freetown for onward passage in convoy? (C.in C. S.A., 1105/30, to Admty.). Reply: 1245/31.

/ BRITANNIA (attacked by raider 25/3) survivors in CABO DE HORNOS ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BRITANNIA (attacked by raider 25/3) survivors in CABO DE HORNOS

Endeavour to intercept and remove survivors ex BRITANNIA from Spanish CABO DE HORNOS 007° 50' N. 025° 56' W. at 2000/29 estimated speed 15 knots. LARGS BAY should remain in company with you.
(C.in C. S.A., 1311N/30, to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE).
My 1311. Adjust course and speed in order to intercept CABO DE HORNOS reporting her p.c. and s. to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
FOXHOUND, DUNCAN are to R.V. with W.S.7 at 14 (00?)/1 latest. CLEMATIS and CYCLAMEN to remain with CABO DE HORNOS informing her they are waiting to take off survivors.
Corvettes to take survivors if DUNNOTTAR CASTLE does not arrive and then transfer later to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
(C.in C. S.A., 1341N/30, to FOXHOUND, DUNCAN, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN).
My 2027/28. (N.T. in W.D.) CILICIA arrived a.m./30 with 63 survivors on board, taken from Spanish Ship BACHI who picked them up in 08° 090' N. 25° 13' W. at 1100/26 all from one boat. Six other boats got away also some rafts. All had abandoned ship before she sunk. Raider ceased fire when abandoning started.
Raider passed ship on opposite course without taking any action then circled round and immediately opened fire from port quarter. Early gunfire made most of guns crew casualties. Raider ceased fire manoeuvred clear of smoke floats and screen and half an hour later opened fire effectively at 8000 yards. It appears possible position of attack given in distress signal was up to one hundred miles in error. Spanish ship CABO DE HORNOS reports having picked up 77 survivors in addition.
(C.in C. S.A. 1415/30, to Admty.).
My 1415/30 to Admiralty only.
Description of raider that sank BRITANNIA is as follows. (C.in C. S.A., 1631N/30, to Admty.).

CUBA

My 0422/27. CUBA can be accepted in U.S.A. for fitting as troopship and should be sailed as soon as possible for Trinidad for fuelling. As CUBA is proceeding to U.S.A. present prize cargo cannot remain on board. Separate instructions will be given to S.T.O. Freetown. (D.S.T. 1542/30 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ SANTA CRUZ (raider) ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

SANTA CRUZ (raider)

Your 2357/28 and my 1943/27. The raider seen by whale catchers on 6/3 in 27° N. 42° W. has now been identified as SANTA CRUZ. Suggest SANTA CRUZ attacked BRITANNIA. Can survivors confirm from silhouette? (D.D.I.C. 1606/30 to C.in C. S.A.).

Suspicious Portuguese Tanker.

Your 0124/20 and BULOLO's 2112/17. Further details. Consider further reply should have been obtained using gun to hasten and ship ?should have been told to steer a course, but to have remained in company at night while boarding might have involved much risk and better alternative would have been to have remained in neighbourhood returned in daylight and investigated further then when submarine could not have followed except on surface. Do not consider vessel involved justified undue risk of loss of valuable ship. (C.in C. S.A., 1647/30, to Admty. amended 1700/1).

BIRMINGHAM to escort S.L.70.

Request you will arrange to sail BIRMINGHAM with s.s. CHRISTIAN HUYGENS to overtake S.L.70 and escort to U.K. CHRISTIAN HUYGENS has about 1200 service personnel on board. Intended that BIRMINGHAM should fuel from CAIRNDALE about 12/4 at "PEDESTAL", leaving convoy temporarily for that purpose. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1900/30 to C.in C. S.A.).

BULOLO S.L.70.

Departure 1700/30 BULOLO to R.V. with and act as ocean escort to convoy S.L.70 and thence to Freetown. 3 escorting ships. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1929N/30, to Admty.).

Force U.

Departure 1800/30 Force U less MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 2123N/30, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Disposal of Prisoners.

Propose Greeks be asked to limit prisoners of war in Crete to 7,000 plus 4,000 civil internees. In return we will accept in Middle East maximum of 500 air crew prisoners specialists and technicians. We are willing to agree that Greeks evacuate 10,000 to India provided they go in Greek ships with Greek escorts and India concur. (C.in C. M.E., 0110/30, to W.O.).

Convoy G.A.8.

0001/30 13 knots Escorts STUART HEREWARD GRIFFIN.
(N.O.S.O. Piraeus, 0130/30, to C.in C. Med.)
Names (0135/30).
CAMERONIA had not appeared by 0145.
Have proceeded with BRECONSHIRE only one hour late.
(Capt. D.10, 0255/30, to C.in C. Med.).

Human Torpedoes.

Craft which attacked Suda Bay on 26/3 were 14 foot Turtle deck shallow draft one man motor boats with six cylinder engines and twin propeller on one shaft. Charged for 500 pounds explosive in bows to detonate on/or by hydrostatic pressure.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0733/30, to N.A. Athens etc.).

Escort of Malta Hurricanes.

Your A140 27/3. (0941/29) Although routeing across Tunisia is political question our information indicates that French Fighters entitled to attack. In one case this actually occurred. Proposal that aircraft from Malta should intercept Hurricanes en route and lead in is not recommended. Recommended one Skua and one Sunderland escort each formation.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1037/30, to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.).
Your A. 140, 27/3.
Proposal to route aircraft over Tunisia not approved. Agree route proposed in Malta's A. 445 1850/24. (Air Min., 1301/30, to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.).

Tripoli bombed.

Operational Summary 293.
Night 28/29 March. 2 Wellingtons dropped 4,000 lbs. bombs Tripoli Harbour. Some bombs fell among shipping.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1111/30).

/ Suez Canal Mining. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal Mining.	Your 1945/27 Anti mine operations in Canal (details) (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1251/30, to Admty.).
MAURO CROCE (Italian)	Departure 30/3. (Barcelona, 1301/30).
Enemy Convoy Route.	Information received Convoy passed by Kelibia about 2 miles off Thasos follows Coast about 5½ miles out until ?011° ?09' and down this meridian to vicinity Kurba Bank. (Cdr. S.1, 1331/30, to UNIQUE).
Greek Destroyers to rescue Italians.	3 Greek Destroyers are leaving at 1930 at 25 knots passing through Antikithera Channel proceeding 035° 25' N. 020° 50' E. to pick up 600 survivors reported by Sunderland. Greek destroyers picked up 110 survivors last night in 035° 23' N. 021° (?00') E. and there is vague talk among prisoners that Italian aircraft promised them rescue during night by BOLZANO and destroyer(s). Can I use CALCUTTA or others to support Greeks? (N.A. Athens, 1425/30, to C.in C. Med.). Cancel movement in my 1425/30, as there is no sign now of 600. (N.A. Athens, 1609/30).
Enemy Losses.	Preliminary interrogation of few prisoners indicates certain sinking of ZARA and POLA. Almost certain FIUME and ALFIERI. Admiral Cattaneo believed killed. General impression that VITTORIO VENETO sunk. (N.A. Athens, 1445/30, to C.in C. Med.).
Italian Thanks for notice of position of survivors.	Following intercepted at 1422 G.M.T. From Coltano Radio. To Rinella Radio Malta. For C.in C. of British Navy in Mediterranean from C.in C. of Italian Navy. Thankyou for your communication. Hospital ship GRADISCA already left Taranto yesterday evening at 1700. Italian en clair. (Land's End Radio, recd. 1730/30).
A/C in Greece.	My 1301/29. Aircraft is undamaged but requires 30 gallons of petrol. It is at St. Nikolas Bay on S.E. side of Kithera Island within 6 miles of Kithera town. St. Nikolas Bay is reported to be suitable harbour for small ships. Request you will take action. (N.A. Athens, 15032/30, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

/ No British Damage.
Italian Ships sunk. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.3.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

No British Damage. Italian Ships sunk.

Ref. enemy broadcast claims there have been no casualties or damage throughout operations to ships or personnel of H.M. Fleet other than aircraft as reported in my 2210/29(?2205/28). Now definitely confirmed Italian Cruisers FIUME, POLA, ZARA, Italian Destroyers VINCENZO GIOBERTI and MAESTRALE were sunk. Situation not yet known about BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI Class Cruiser. (C.in C. Med. 1532/30, to Admty.).

Malta Air Raids.

Night 29/30. About 8 unidentified aircraft over singly at long intervals. Bombs dropped various localities causing no damage or casualties. Many bombs in sea.
At 1410 hours formation of about 20 ME. 109's and CR. 42's patrolled five miles off Grand Harbour at 16,000 feet to distract Hurricanes while 4 JU.88's escorted by 4 ME.109's at 17,000 feet came over and bombed Takali Aerodrome. Slight damage, no casualties. (H.Q., Med., 1640/30, to Air Min.).

Battle of Cape Matapan.

Report of the Battle (C.in C. Med. 1700/30) See Lion Copy.

Report of Action 28/3 - 29/3.

My 0028/29 and 2205/29. Further account is as follows, but details still uncertain and modification may be needed. (C.in C. Med., 1558/30, 1730/30) Originals in Lion copy only. Following comparison of forces engaged is given:-

	British	Italian
Battleships	3	3
Aircraft Carrier	1	-
Cruisers	4	7 or 11
Destroyers	12	14
	20	24

Suez, Protection of Shipping.

Admty. 0117/27 and C.in C. Med. 1126/29. As this operation now appears more imminent and both your forces and those of C.in C. E.I. are fully stretched request you will consider following proposal to give protection to valuable shipping at Suez.
2. On assumption that C.in C. E.I. carries out a daily air reconnaissance of Massawa and would be able to report the departure of enemy from that port, would it be possible for you to station at Port Said any destroyers that may be boiler cleaning or waiting for convoys so that they could pass quickly through the Canal and reach Suez before the enemy? (1st S.L., 2005/30, to C.in C. Med.).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Objective. FIUME, ZARA POLA

2130/27 VITTORIO VENETO, three Italian cruisers ZARA Class, and four destroyers left Taranto. They knew other cruiser and destroyers were joining but knew nothing of another battleship. Object was attack on convoy by light forces whilst main force covered southerly. FIUME believed (?destroyed) by heavy guns ZARA self blown up after serious damage. POLA disabled by torpedo from F.A.A. at 2030 and self sunk about 2330. VITTORIO VENETO believed not sunk. (R.A. Athens, 2115/30, to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

French Repatriees

My 1102/29. Now understand that INHARRIME expects to leave Lourenco Marques 31/3 to pick up troops who are in COLONIAL at Beira. Dar-Es-Salaam cannot accommodate troops. Not yet known about Mombasa. Request instructions. (C.in C. E.I., 0644Z/30, to Admty.).

ODER, German personnel, captured documents. UCKERMARK, PANTERA, NAZARIO SAURO

My 2058/26. Original engine room complement of German ships at Massawa were Chinese and Indians who have left. Engine room complement of ODER consisted of (numbers) drawn from other German ships in Massawa. Unlikely that sufficient men would be available to man all the remainder of the German ships especially in view of para 3(A) below.
3. Diary found in possession of officer up to 11/2/1941 contains following information. (B) Volunteers from German motorised unit in Asmara were called for towards the end of January to man the UCKERMARK which was to be transformed into an auxiliary cruiser. (C) Confirmed that alleged attack on Red Sea Convoy on 3/2 was carried out by PANTERA and NAZARIO SAURO (C.in C. E.I. 0636Z/3 refers) (D) On 8/2 two scuttling charges were fixed in ODER by Italian Navy and P.M. that day orders given to stand by to scuttle. Orders were cancelled at noon/9. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0632Z/30, to C.in C. E.I.)

/ PHOEBE ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

PHOEBE

After crossing lat. of 25° S. PHOEBE is to be detached from convoy W.S.6 and proceed to Mediterranean at best speed.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1216/30 to C.in C. E.I.).

Relief for NELSON.

My 1747/17 and 2006/26.
Should there be definite indications that SCHEER is not in South Atlantic or Indian Ocean it is desired to relieve NELSON by one 8" cruiser as soon as possible, preferably in time for NELSON to return to Freetown without calling at Cape.
Request your proposals.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1230/30, to C.in C. E.I.).

BERTRAM RICKMERS intercepted by KANDAHAR.

R.A.F. R/C reported a merchant ship leaving Massawa at 12 G.M.T./29 and also its position at 0640 G.M.T./30 KANDAHAR intercepted this ship, the BERTRAM RICKMERS at 0750 G.M.T./30 in 14° 7' N., 41° 42' . BERTRAM RICKMERS abandoned ship on sighting and fired scuttling charges. Full details not yet available.
(C.in C. E.I., 1300Z/30, to Admty.).

Red Sea, plans to intercept enemy vessels.

S.N.O., Red Sea will as far as possible maintain the following dispositions in Red Sea to deal with Italian Destroyer(s) and the escape of enemy Merchant Vessel(s)
(A) Striking force of one C Class Cruiser and one Destroyer based on Port Sudan.
(B) Section of similar force based on (?Suez) for Straits of Jubal and Northern part of Red Sea.
(C) In Straits of Bab El Mandeb a composite force which will contain a sloop and be supported by one Destroyer. (2) Two sloops will be normally B.N. and B.S. convoy escorts between about 020° N. and Aden, and forces (a) and (b) will provide cover in their respective areas. Personnel of convoy escorts will be reinforced from forces (a) and (b). (3) Operation "ATMOSPHERE" will be supported by Force (a) (4) Swordfish embarked from EAGLE will provide R/C of (?Canal) from Massawa and (corrupt group) to prevent and be ready to strike if the movement of enemy Destroyer is detected. Possibility of moving some Swordfish to Hurghada in emergency is under consideration with R.A.F. Alternatively A.O.C. in C. M.E. may be able to provide Sunderland Flying Boat in Gulf of Suez.
(C.in C. E.I., 1906Z/30, to Admty.).
Addition, see 1212/31.

/UMBRIA ...

War Diary.

30.S.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

UMBRIA (Italian), scuttled.

Your 1029/22 (N.T. N.R. and D. of S.T.)
Master of PROTECTOR reports UMBRIA sunk in deep waters and salvage impractiable.
(P.S.E.O. Egypt, 2311/30, to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan).

America and West Indies.

ANGLO INDIAN Raider report.

The following has been read. RRRR ANGLO INDIAN position lat. unread, long. 31.51 W., is suspicious.
(Lands End, 0828/30).
R.R.R.R. Cancel my 0828/30.
(ANGLO INDIAN, 0857/30).

MALAYA

Arrival 0830/29 local time. Regret delay in routine signal.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain Trinidad, 0914/30).

PRINCE DAVID

Leave Trinidad A.M./1 and proceed 15 knots to establish patrol at South Eastern End of area Q. Complete to full stowage fuel and water before sailing.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1041/30, to PRINCE DAVID).

MALOJA

Leave Bermuda as soon as ready on 1/4 and proceed to St. John N.B. by most direct route. Adjust speed so as to arrive off Partridge Island not later than 1230 Q/3.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1042/30, to MALOJA).

"R" report 22/3.

My 1906/22. Report received from S.S. CAPSA on arrival Curacao mentioned RR RR heard from ROYAL CROWN. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1122/30, to Admty.).

LIVERPOOL refitting port.

Your tel. regarding LIVERPOOL. Yard was corrected in ARMUK 28 (T.O.O. 2304/27) to Mare Island. T.O.O. 1330/28.
(B.A.M.N. Washington 1123/30 to Admty.).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

H.X. 119. Your 1424/29. No objection to sailing Commodore in DALHOUSIE. He should not embark in JEAN JADOT. (? D.T.D., 1302/30, to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

H.X.118 S.C.27. HAMILLIES successfully undocked to-day 30/3 and will be available for H.X.118 sailing a.m./1 in company with SURCOUF to overtake convoy. SALOPIAN is escorting S.C.27 and WOLFE H.X.118. (S.S.S. 1602/30, to Admty.).

"Q" Report. 43.58 N., 30.56 W., QQQQ 15.40 G.M.T. GMPG suspicious vessel. 1545/30. (?, T.O.R. 1851/30) N.R. Note: GMPG (PLM 17?)

"Q" Report SATURNUS Following has been read: QQQQ 43.28 N. 28.40 W., SATURNUS, suspicious. (SATURNUS, 1650/30). Cancel my QQQQ 1647, vessel is friendly. (Valentia Radio, 1718/30).

Seizure of Italian Ships. Secretary of the Treasury ordered Coast-guards today to take possession of all Italian ships in U.S. territory. Action taken after discovery that crews of five at Newark, N.J., ERENNERO, SAN LEONARDO, ALBERTA, AUSSA, and ARSA, had ruined the engines by burning out essential parts. (The Times, 31/3/41, from telegrams dated 30/3).

MALAYA Your 1013/28. Intend to sail at 2300/30 via Mona Passage and position 100 miles East of Cape Hatteras. E.T.A. Ambrose L.V. 0200 Zone plus 5/6 April. (MALAYA, 183G2/30, to C.in C. A.W.I.) MALAYA departed. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 2202/30, to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Cable communications. Your 1401/24. Cable and wireless communications in this area now working to full capacity. Demand for facilities for private messages by U.S. personnel and U.S. Government traffic may also be expected. Consider this will lead to choking of our own vital communications, followed by demand for better facilities. We cannot give these. U.S. demand for right to supply their own will be unanswerable. In view of great

/ importance of ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Cable communications. (Contd.)	Importance of maintaining complete control of Imperial Communications consider we should at least plan ahead and be ready with scheme of expansion. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1907/30, to Admty.).

Australia.

Free French Volunteers.	Free French Authorities request arrangements for movement of 300 volunteers from Tahiti and 300 from New Caledonia to Middle East. Request report whether arrangements can be made for movement in first place to Australia or N.Z. and subsequently to M.E. in U.S.11. (D.S.T., 1107/30, to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HYLTON
GERMANIC
(torpedoed 29/3)

Cancel my 1922. (Proceed direct to help of HYLTON and GERMANIC). Remain at 1/2 hours notice, (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0015/30, to PRUDENT, TENACITY).

RHODONA
(torpedoed 16/3)

RHODONA brought into Eðis Vik anchorage near Reykjavik. Stern resting on bottom in approx. 60 feet.
(F.O. Iceland, 1401/30, to Admty.).
RHODONA THAMES and VISENDA escorted by WHITETHORN arrived 2000/29.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1600/30, to S.O.N.P.T.)

MANSEPOOL
(torpedoed 24/2)

(A) S.S. MANSEPOOL (B) 0500 G.M.T./24/2. 61° 07' N. 13° 10' W. (F) ship was not seen to sink. (C.in C. S.A., 2046/30, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

1210.

D/F at 1210/30 makes it probable that OG 57 has been reported by a German U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 1255/30).

Estimated U Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1348/30).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

German Battlecruisers

C. in C. Plymouth pointed out yesterday that the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were known to have been in Brest on 27/3, but no serious attack had been made on them, although since 27/3 many tons of bombs have been dropped on targets in Germany which cannot run away. These two ships constitute the most potential weapons Hitler possesses for carrying out his avowed intention of waging war on our shipping. C. in C. Plymouth considers it vital that the maximum possible air attack should be directed against these ships and sustained at the expense of all other targets until they are out of range or have been destroyed.

The Admiralty replied today that the considerations put forward are uppermost in the mind of the Admiralty, Air Ministry and War Cabinet, but last night was the first night on which the weather was suitable for attack, though the weather meanwhile has been suitable for bombing the other objectives referred to.

P.R.U. Sortie showed that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were still in Brest at 1645 today. The funnel of the docked ship was emitting smoke but the ship was apparently still resting on chocks.

Plymouth & W.A. Commands

An adjustment has been made between the boundaries of the Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands.

Dover shelled.

Eight rounds were fired at Dover by enemy coastal batteries between 1106 and 1145 today. No naval damage or casualties occurred.

U-Boats in Bordeaux.

P.R.U. sortie today showed 18 U-boats in Bordeaux compared with 9 or 11 on 26/3.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping & Convoys

C. in C., Western Approaches, considers that until supplied with secreted arms for subsequent use if opportunity arises, all British Merchant ships should be ordered to scuttle themselves if there is no other way to avoid capture.

Owing to shorter hours of darkness it is intended to alter sailings between Dartmouth and Portsmouth by stopping at Portland for one day on passage.

British Air Activity.

Operations against SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

It is thought that the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU may sail from Brest at any time during darkness. Air patrol is to be maintained from 0730 today until it is established that the battle cruisers are still in Brest. Air patrols are to be maintained by a/c fitted with special equipment, from 2 hours after dark until dawn daily, until further orders.

109 aircraft of Bomber Command were detailed to attack the battle cruisers at Brest last night. 98 reached the objective and dropped 118 tons of bombs. No direct hits on the battle cruisers are claimed, though it is assumed from reports that a high percentage of the bombs dropped on the portion of the docks where the battle cruisers are situated.

Attacks on shipping off French & Dutch coast.
Destroyer hit.

20 Bomber Command Aircraft were despatched today to attack enemy shipping off the French and Dutch Coasts. Two 3000 ton tankers were set on fire off Le Havre and two hits are claimed on a large destroyer off Schiermonnikoog; which was left listing with smoke issuing from the stern. A hit is claimed on a 2000 ton merchant ship in convoy off Ijmuiden.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Two merchant vessels escorted by WOOLSTON and LEITH were unsuccessfully bombed at 1701 at the mouth of the Bristol Channel WOOLSTON called for help again at 1807.

Trawlers WHINNYFOLD and YORK were attacked in 60° 30° N., 9° 35' W this evening and the former had some casualties and damage. Trawler ONTARIO was sunk this morning in 60° 15' N., 11° W.

SS KALEV was disabled but not seriously damaged in air attack on Falmouth today.

3 bombs were dropped in Portsmouth Dockyard at 2011, damaging the Torpedo Store Depot.

Mining

Operation G.Z. — 20th D.F. (less EXPRESS) laid mines last night off Brest, covered by 4 destroyers. Aircraft laid mines off Brest last night

Hartlepool was closed at 2230.

A/C mining — 8 mines were laid off Brest by aircraft last night and 4 off Ameland.

Mining of Humber — The Humber was reopened at 1025. At 1110 A/P trawler LORD SELBORNE was sunk 3 miles E. by S. of the P.W.S.S. Mines are scattered between Hull and Grimsby and apparently also off Spurn Point, to seaward.
The Humber was closed again about midnight.

/Milford Haven.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Milford Haven was closed at 0530 and reopened subject to local restrictions, at 1103.

What is considered to have been a mine detonated inside East India Dock Basin at 0005 today, slightly damaging the dock gates.

South Atlantic

A Fulmar aircraft from FURIOUS, flown off on 27/3 125 miles W. of Bathurst, is missing and may have force landed in Portuguese territory. Portuguese Govt. have been asked to institute an air search if possible.

Look-out ships in Convoys.

It is proposed to give a trial to a scheme of look-out ships, capable of at least 3 knots over convoy speed, in S.L. convoys, the look-out ships not to close the convoy on sighting an enemy warship and to make a raider report by W/T.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

BONAVENTURE Sunk

BONAVENTURE escorting Convoy G.A. 8 was hit by 2 torpedoes early this morning off the S.E. end of Crete. The ship sank immediately, with heavy loss of life. STUART attacked the submarine, which broke surface and then crash dived after the third attack. After the fourth attack contact faded out.

Operation "Ration"

F.O.C.N.A. reports five minor casualties in FORESTER by machine gun fire from aircraft, presumably when SHEFFIELD's force was attacked yesterday after engaging shore batteries at Nemours. SHEFFIELD reports that although the British force was steaming at 25 knots it could not have got between the convoy and the shore before the former reached gun range of the batteries.

Air attack on Tripoli.

3 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night, for the third night in succession A convoy of 10 ships was attacked off the port.

East Indies

To assist in protecting shipping in the Red Sea C. in C., Med. is sending GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN to Suez, but requests they may be relieved by ISIS and ENCOUNTER as soon as possible to prevent delay to Operation "Lustre" and to maintain Battle Fleet screen

/The arrival.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies- Contd.

The arrival of GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN from Mediterranean at Suez will enable Jubal Straits to be watched and more adequate protection given to convoys B.S. 22 and S.U. 4. which will be passing through Red Sea at the same time that operation "Atmosphere" is taking place.

FLAMINGO and AUKLAND are to escort B.N. 22 to Suez and then be at the disposal of C. in C., Mediterranean.

China

C. in C., China, sees no objection to allowing Thailand to have oil within reasonable limits provided she carries out her obligations regarding the supply of rice to Malaya, which she has recently reduced.

Japanese accepting Navycerts.

It is reported from Singapore that the N.Y.K. are to accept British Navycert System, and it is believed the O.S.K. and M.B.K. are also accepting.

Explanation of escape of ERITREA & RAMB II

The N.E.I. Naval C. in C. (V.A. Helfrich) has explained that the escape of the Italian sloops ERITREA and the RAMB II through the Moluccas unseen, to Japan occurred owing to a delay, so far unexplained of 36 to 48 hours in W/T communication. C. in C., China 1072/31 gives the N.E.I. Naval dispositions.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.3.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

Axis Ships	It is stated in the press, that U.S. armed guards have been placed on board all Italian ships (and apparently German and Danish ships also) in U.S. ports, on the ground that their crews were sabotaging them.
EISENACH FELLA	Crews of German EISENACH and Italian FELLA set fire to their ships early this morning at Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, and it is believed both will be a total loss. The crews are being arrested.
American Export SS Line	An officer of this line has been discovered carrying letters handed to him by persons wishing to evade censorship. Other officers are suspected.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Air Attacks on SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Reply to C.-in-C., Plymouth 1305/30 (1st S.L. 1500/31). See Operations Volume.

Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands.

Adjustment of boundaries (1st S.L.2219/31 "A" Message. Home and Abroad). See Lion Copy.

Defence of U.K.

Dover. Proposed increased immobilisation.

A.L.M/LD.01893/41 of 3/3. In view of the fact that Dover if captured by the enemy could be used for landing of tanks and M/T, more drastic measures for immobilisation as visualised in para. 4 of A.L. are now proposed as follows:-

(1) The sinking of all available craft such as Coasting Steamers, Lighters, Tugs, and FALCONET alongside Quays and at Dock Entrances

(2) The blowing of Breach in Eastern Arm if this proves practicable.

Request approval to embody these in revised immobilisation arrangements. (V.A.Dover 1126/3

Movements.

0.24

Have left patrol. Have just sufficient fuel remaining to reach Gibraltar at moderate speed Request instructions. (0.24. 0030/31). Your 0030/31. Proceed on the surface at your discretion passing through 041°N. 012° W. thence as ordered by F.O.C. N.A. (F.O.S.0834/31 to C.24).

COTTESMORE.

Tonight Provide cover for H.C.1. from dark to 59 Buoy, then return by 172 Q.Z.S. (C.-in-C. Nore 1019/31 to D.21).

UNDAUNTED.

F.O.S. No.541/SM 0028 of 27th March Para. 4. In anticipation of Admiralty approval intend to sail UNDAUNTED to Mediterranean Station on April 3rd. (F.O.S.1138/31).

PRIMULA.

PRIMULA will sail Gibraltar with C.C.58 on 7/4. (C.-in-C. W.A.1554/31 to C.-in-C. Med.)
But see CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

PRUDENT. TENACITY. — Return to Campbeltown so as to arrive at 0700/1/4. Acknowledge all signals received by you while at Loch Fayle. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1930/31).

WOOLSTON. — Report before you sail so that Fighter Escort may be arranged. (C.-in-C. Plymouth 2203/31).

Operations.

East Coast Patrol. — Tonight the following Auxiliary Patrol positions will not be filled. A Sheringham Buoy. B.57 C to 58 Buoys. (C.-in-C. Nore 0955/31).

Dover Shelled. — Enemy coastal batteries fired 8 rounds between 1106 and 1145 today; six fell in town and two to seaward of harbour. Damage and casualties (No Naval). V.A. Dover 1744/31).

Patrol O. — The duty at sea for which 2 destroyers of 16th D.F. or 21st D.F. are detailed each night is to be known in future as convoy protection instead of patrol 'O'. (C.-in-C. Nore 2811/31).

British Air Activity.

Attacks on M/Vs. — Day 30/3. Six Blenheims carried out R/C of coast off Frisian Is. for enemy shipping. Two aircraft bombed and machine gunned cargo vessel of 2-3,000 tons at 53° 40'N. 6° 22'E. and three bombs were seen to fall 10-20 yards away from the port side. Another aircraft attacked two stationary flak ships two miles off Terschelling but no bursts were observed. (H.Q.B.C.0022/31).

Patrols. — My 1924/30/3. Aircraft will leave patrol one about 1700/31. (C.-in-C. Rosyth 1126/31). My 1938/30 patrols BERT and STAND cancelled as A/C unable to take off owing to weather. (C.-in-C. Rosyth 1514/31). To ensure enemy battle cruisers cannot leave Brest undetected following cross over patrol to be maintained from 2 hours after dusk till dawn daily until further orders by an A/C

fitted.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.3.41. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Patrols. (Continued) fitted with special equipment. From PSMQ 3207 to FXMQ 1445 to FXTK 2510 and PSZR 2141 leaving first position 2 hours after dusk all special equipment contacts to be identified unless own sea forces operating in vicinity. Enemy battle cruisers to be reported and shadowed. A/C to carry maximum load of flares and fuel.
(ACHQ. Plymouth 1520/31 to St. Eval).
My 1514 Patrol BERT has now taken off.
(C.-in-C. Rosyth 1636/31).

A/A Escort for SCOTT. My 1007/30. In view of SCOTT'S very inadequate A/A armament, and the fact that she will be spending 48 hours in the area South West of Faeroes on 3rd and 4th April, request if possible that A/A escort may be detailed for her during this period.
(R.A.(M) 1451/31 to C.-in-C. H.F.)

Attack on SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU at Brest. Night 30/31 March. By 98 aircraft. No direct hits claimed but assumed from reports received that high percentage of bombs fell on part of docks where battle cruisers situated.
(HQBC.1630/31). See Lion Copy.

Enemy Air Activity.

IMMEDIATE. One aircraft bearing 310° height 10,000 feet. My position 51° 48'N. 1° 31'E. Course 226. Speed 12 knots. (WHITEHEAD 0705/31).

OILTRADER (Bombed 29/3). Trawlers unable to locate wreck of OIL TRADER within an area 3 miles radius of 052° 35' 50"N. 002° 01' 30"E. (F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 0803/31).

Convoy O.G. One enemy A/C circling convoy "Clasp" Height 1000 feet my position 53° 44'N. 18° 20'W. Course 249°, speed 7 knots. (WALKER 0821/31).

CAROLINA. THORDEN. (Bombed 26/3) CHANDOS Bombed. Enemy aircraft unsuccessfully bombed 1900/30 wreck of Finnish vessel CAROLINA THORDEN lying near Nolso Island which is still burning also machine gunned Grimsby trawler CHANDOS about 1 mile south east of Nolso killed Captain wounded Gunner.
(O.C. Troops, Faroe Is. 1047/31).

Convoy O.G. [illegible]. 1 Enemy A/C shadowing. Circling height 1000 feet position 53° 36'N. 18° 52'W. (WALKER 1137/31).

ALBERT C. FIELD. (British 1,764 tons) Request whereabouts may be communicated when known. Vessel made air distress message at 1347/29/3 off S B Buoy, whilst a straggler from F.N.45 bound Hartlepool from Southend.
(C.-in-C. Rosyth 1240/31).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy E.N. Even.	Fighters despatched to assistance of Convoy MISSION. (Rosyth 1439/31).
Convoy "Obstacle"	Request fighter assistance Convoy OBSTACLE (2 M/V's escorted by WOOLSTON and LEITH) Position. (WOOLSTON 1701/31). My 1701/31 4 bombs no hits. (WOOLSTON 1706/31). Help OBSTACLE 51° 16' N. 4° 23' W. (WOOLSTON 1807/31).
Portsmouth.	At 2011 a plane dropped 3 H.E. on Dockyard Canteen at Unicorn Gate and Torpedo Store. Details of damage not yet ascertained. Casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2122/31).

Mining.

Milford Haven.	Port is closed owing to enemy mining. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0630/31).
Humber.	Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1025/31).
Milford Haven.	My 0630/31. Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1103/31).
LORD SELBORNE sunk.	(A/P Trawler) Lost by underwater explosion at 1110 today. Approximate position believed to be 102 degs PWSS 3 miles. No further details known yet. (F.O. Humber 1150/31).
Operation B.S.53.	Intend TEVIOTBANK, GUILLEMOT, and LA MELPOMENE to sail from Spurn Point at 1230/1st and take departure from 20 F buoy at 0230/2 to initial position. Laying will begin at 0420/2. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 1152/31, C.in C. Rosyth 1631/31).

/ Operation ZHE 27. ....

War Diary. 31.3.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation ZME 27.	Details. Operation to be carried out on night of 2/4 or as soon after as practicable. Time of laying to be as near midnight as possible. Movements of ships to be restricted as for operation Z.M.E. 24. (V.C.N.S. 1614/31).
Moray Firth searching sweep.	My 1117/30. Operations postponed for about 24 hours on account of weather. Further signal will be made. (C.in C. Rosyth 1625/31 to S.O. 5th M.S.F., ALBURY). Positions of Acoustic mine detonated today and spontaneous explosions heard. 1818/31.
Skids.	Enemy's recent practice of dropping ground mines in docks, basins and rivers, where reduced salinity of water renders 'LL' Sweep ineffective makes it particularly important to have skids and skid towers available for instant action at ports where the above conditions obtain. (D.N.S. 1933/31 to C.in C. N.A. etc.).
KENYA, re deperming.	Cdr. D.G. Molensburgh reports: if time permits KENYA should be depermed. T.O.O. 1030/31 ends. It is understood that this would take a day and a half. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2120/31).
Hartlepool closed.	Port of Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2230/31.).
Humber.	Humber is closed to navigation, enemy mine-laying scattered mine-laying between Hull and Grimsby. Difficulty to estimate number and position owing to breakdown in communications. Anticipated time of opening 1100/1/4. (F.O. Humber 2358/31).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy off Sables D'Olonne.	A/C reported 3 Merchant ships escorted by 6 M Boats off Sables D'Olonne course N.W. speed 12 knots at 1210. (F.O.(S) 1469/31 to TIGRIS).
18 U boats in Bordeaux.	Pru Sortie 1210/31 shows in Bordeaux wet basins eighteen submarines of which three docked as compared with 9 possibly 11 on 26/3. (P.R.U. Benson, 1645/31).
SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU	PRU Sortie 1645/31 shows in Brest SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still present. Funnel of docked vessel emitting smoke but ship apparently still resting on chocks. No other naval units of importance noted but large tanker alongside at seaplane station. (P.R.U. Benson 1650/31).
Armed fishing vessels in Bay of Biscay.	It is believed that certain fishing vessels working in the Bay of Biscay may be armed with torpedoes. (F.O.(S) 2347/31 to S/M's on Patrol Area A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.8.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Suggested Scuttling. Until supplied with secreted arms for subsequent use if opportunity arises, I consider all British Merchant ships should be ordered to scuttle themselves if there is no other way to avoid capture. (C.in C. W.A., 1552/31, to Admty.).

S.L. Convoys. Proposed institution of look-out ships. (D.T.D., 1032/3) See South Atlantic.

Channel Sailings, New Scheme. C.in C. Plymouth's No. 554/M. 478 of 19/3 and Message 1409/27 and A.M. 1646/28. Owing to Shorter hours of darkness it is intended to alter sailings between Dartmouth and Portsmouth by stopping at Portland for one day on passage and to provide escorts as follows:
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1803/31 to C.in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.3.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

RESTIVE	Out of action due to collision. D.G. circuit out. Structural damage not very serious. Repairs cannot be undertaken here. (MONT. Campbeltown 1005/31).
CARTH.	Left Sheerness 1202/31 in tow. (C.in C. Nore 1436/31). My 1108/11. PRIMULA delayed by defects further signal will be made. (C.in C. W.A. 1722/31).

MOST SECRET

31.3.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

FORESTER Casualties from air attack.

Following casualties in FORESTER. Five wounded by machine gun fire from aircraft, none serious. No casualties in other ships of force. (F.O.C.N.A., 0038/31 to Admty.) My 0038/31. All minor injuries (F.O.C.N.A. 1805/31)

Operation "Ration"

SHEFFIELD 1515/30. It is not clear why SHEFFIELD did not get between the convoy and the shore. (1st.S.L. 1215/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Biscay Patrol

Operation "Ration".

Remarks on recent patrol off the Bay. (S.O. Force H.,1657/31 to Admty.) See Lion copy for full text. Your 1215/31 SHEFFIELD reports as follows. SHEFFIELD and destroyers though steaming 25 knots could not have got inside convoy before it reached gun range of shore batteries. Unaware of shore batteries, closing shore made boarding possible and was to my advantage. I was not attempting to rush the operations hoping by strict adherence to procedure to avoid any incident with French destroyer SIMOUN. (F.O.C.N.A., 1954/31 to Admty.)

Aircraft Reinforcements for Malta

H.Q. Middle East's A 493, 25/3. Fulmars cannot be made available. Previous experience indicates improbable Sunderlands can make dawn R.V. with Force H. Prefer Sunderlands patrol five miles North of Galita Island on D 3. Request immediate signal transmitted not later than 0400 A if conditions unsuitable Malta area, when operation will be postponed 24 hours. E.T.A. first formation in still air about 0930 A on D.3. D.1 at present fixed for 1/4. (S.O. Force H. 1625/31 to V.A. Malta) See also Mediterranean 1615/31.

MOST SECRET

31.3.41.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic Contd.

SHEFFIELD. — Your 1646/26 and my 1106/27. Re temporary repairs to make fuel tanks tight one week. Ship is seaworthy. Do not intend putting any repairs in hand at present.
(A.S. Gibraltar, 1654/30 to Admty.)

Raider which sank BRITANNIA 25/3. — Description of Raider that sank S.S. BRITANNIA 0855/25 in 007° 24' N 024° 34' W as follows;
(F.O.C.N.A. 2122/31, to N.A.Station).

South Atlantic

CABO DE HORNOS. — Your 1341N/30. Steering to intercept. My P.C. and S is 057° 26' N 020° 37' W 294° 14 knots CYCLAMEN in company.
(CLEMATIS 1000N/31 to C.in C. S.A.).

Corvettes — Your 0910/28. Corvettes for U boat attack in area off Freetown. (N.T. in W.D.). All ships fitted H/F.
(C. in C. W.A., 1025/31 to C. in C.,S.A.).

FURIOUS missing aircraft. — Please inform Portuguese Govt. that aircraft crew of 2, flown off H.M. Ship West of Bathurst missing since 27/3 and may have forced landed in Portuguese territory. Request Portuguese Govt. be asked to institute, if possible, an air search.
For your information, aircraft is Fulmar flown off FURIOUS 125 miles W of Bathurst.
(Head of M. 1241/31 to N.A. Lisbon).

ORMONDE. — Your 1105/30 ORMONDE should remain at Capetown to await onward escort.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1245/31 to C. in C., S.A.).

BIRMINGHAM
CHRISTIAN HUYGENS — Your 1900/30 my 2029/28. BIRMINGHAM escorting CHRISTIAN HUYGENS will probably overtake S L 70 a.m./4 in approx. 19° 30' N-instead of 3/4 in 18° N.
(C. in C., S.A., 1517N/31 to Admty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ZAANLAND. Union Department of Agriculture are enquiring whereabouts of Dutch ZAANLAND which was carrying an important cargo for themselves.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1631/31, to Admty.).

Oiling at Sea. Reply to Adty. 1448/28.
(S.A.S.A.D., 1048Z/31).

Look-Out Ships. S.L. Convoys. Ref. BULOLO's R. of P. 20/1, 1941, propose, subject to your concurrence, to give his scheme of look-out ships, but not his suggested zig-zag screen, a trial in S.L. convoys which have not been given a battleship or cruiser escort.
Trials to be subject to following:-
(1) To be at discretion of Commodore.
(2) Masters to be volunteers and carefully selected.
(3) Ships selected to have an excess over convoy speed of at least 3 knots.
(4) Look-out ships not to close convoy on sighting an enemy warship and to make a R.R.R. report by W/T.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1832/31 to C.in C. S.A.).

CANTON Your 0104/26/3 para. 3.
Hoped that total time to equip CANTON with Catapult will not be greater than if entire work carried out in U.K. as A.M.C's with high speed are urgently required for raider patrols. Also that it will be possible to fit all improvements as done in ALCANTARA including longer range guns.
(C.in C. S.A., 1946/31, to Admty.).

Survivors of BRITANNIA (sunk by raider 25/3) My 1413/30. (Survivors taken from Spanish BACHI by CILICIA). Survivors include following 6 naval officers and 26 naval ratings named in my 1942/31. All are well.
(C.in C. S.A., 2101/31, to Admty.).

AFRICANA XXIV MAGGIO. All Italian Ships at Pernambuco are now alongside outer Mole. AFRICANA has completed with water and XXIV MAGGIO is still receiving coal.
(N.C.S.O. Montevideo 2135Z/31).

/ MILFORD, passages on 24/3 and 29/3. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

MILFORD, messages on 24/3 and 29/3.

Report by L/T on arrival St. Helens if it was MILFORD that made dumy message in international code on 24/3 and 29/3. This should not be done to jam distress messages made in error, as much confusion may result. (C. in C. S.A., 2203N/31, to Force U for MILFORD.).

Mediterranean.

Action off Crete.

Congratulations from Prime Minister, (D.C., 0816/31 to C. in C. Med.). Original in Lion Copy only.

BONAVENTURE sunk.

BONAVENTURE torpedoed and sunk in p.146[illegible]N [illegible] GRIFFIN with Convoy. STUART attacking submarine. HEREWARD picking up survivors. (Capt. D.10, 0307/31, to C. in C. Med.) Position 90' S. of Crete. BONAVENTURE sunk by two torpedoes in 033° 20'N., 026° 35'E., at 0307. 10 officers including Captain and 300 men saved. Ship sank immediately. STUART attacked submarine which broke surface and then crash-dived after third attack. After fourth attack contact faded out. STUART then rejoined convoy. Suggest no announcement yet. (C. in C. Med., 1237/31, to Admty.).

Suez Protection of Shipping.

A.M. 2005/30 is not practicable. Boiler cleaning is only opportunity destroyers have of making good repairs. If this threat is considered a real one it can in my opinion only be dealt with by destroyers on spot. It is quite likely a (? mining) attack on canal would be made at same time. I am therefore sending two destroyers to Suez but I request they may be relieved by ISIS and ENCOUNTER as soon as possible, otherwise I shall have to delay operation "LUSTRE" and meanwhile if battle fleet has to proceed to sea it will have to do so with negligible screen. (C. in C. Med., 1039/31, to Admty.,) (Names of destroyers, see East Indies, 1930Z/31.).

/Tripoli.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Tripoli bombed. Wreckage of Italian Ships. Astropalia bombed.

Operational Summary No. 294 up to 1800 hours 31.3.41.Night 29/30. 4 Wellingtons dropped 8000 lbs.bombs on docks and petrol installations Tripoli. Greece. 29/30. Sunderland reconnaissances reported oil patches unidentified wreckage and several rafts carrying Italians ship survivors in area between 120 and 180 miles West Crete where British and Italian naval forces were engaged 29/3.30/3. 5 Blenheims dropped 5000 lbs. bombs on shipping in and near Astropalia (Dodecanese) nearest bombs bursting within 100 yards. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1128/31.).

"Human Torpedoes" Suda Bay.

My 1734/26. Attack on Suda Bay was carried out by six boats. Description of boats as follows:- 14 foot turtle deck shallow draft one-man motor boat, with 6-cylinder engines and twin propellers on one shaft. Charge of about 500 pound explosive contained in cylindrical compartment in bow. Apparently charge may be set to detonate on impact or by steam pressure as ?explosive charge sink alongside target. Recovered boat is being sent Alexandria for further examination. (C. in C. Med., 1537/31 to Admty.).

M.N.B.D.O. in W.S.6.

BERGENFIORD and APAMA of W.S.6. Convoy contain M.N.B.D.O. Unit and priority stores urgently required Alexandria. Request they may be sent ahead of W.S.6, if practicable and escort available. (corrupt groups) should also be (Corrupt Group) on completion transferred to BERGENFIORD before leaving Durban. (C. in C. Med., 1545/31, to C. in C. E.I.).

Malta Air Raids.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600 hours 31/3. All times GMT. Enemy activity 1600 hours 30/3. 4 JU. 88's escorted by 8 ME. 109's high level bombing on Takali. Only 2 bombs on camp. No casualties or damage. 31/3 considerable activity from 0500 to 0900 hrs on either side of Malta. 0930 hours small formation carried out recco round island. Enemy did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1600/31.).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Hurricanes

After further consideration and in view of possible adverse sea conditions for Sunderlands suggest following alternatives regarding R/V. 200 Group pass S.O. Force H who request signals us exact position of carrier at 0430 G.M.T. April 3. Also instruct first Hurricanes formation land Hal Far second Luca.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1615/31).
Your 1301/30 re proposal to route aircraft over Tunisia. Sunderland T.9048 should arrive Malta from Alexandria 1/4 or 2/4 and together with Sunderland L.5807 now at Malta will provide escort for Hurricanes under arrangements to be made by you.
(H.Q. R.A.F. ME 1707/31 to Malta).

UNBEATEN

On return from patrol UNBEATEN is to revert to extended notice and is to be prepared to sail for Mediterranean on 12/4. Leave should be granted accordingly.
(F.O.S. 1733/31. to S.5).

YORK and PERICLES torpedoed 26/3.

Your 0058/31. Sent by W.R. for repetition of 1251/26 (See 1835/17 from Suda Bay.)
Following is a repetition of my 1251/2x
At 0515 this morning PERICLES was torpedoed as well as YORK. Hit amidships. Holed both sides. Capable of steaming. Cargo intact less about 500 tons. Attack was apparently made by 6 one man boats. One boat recovered intact is being investigated and two are known to have blown up ashore. Six prisoners here picked up off rafts.
(Ends).
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1855/31, to Admty).

TINOS
BELLONA
SPARTA
(German.)

Arrival 30/3 TINOS. Departures BELLONA SPARTA both for Marseilles.
(Valencia T.H.I. 1930/31).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force W Disbanded.

My 1500/ 19/2 para 1(Ships in Italian Somaliland operations to be known as Force W) Force "W" has been disbanded. (C.in C. E.I. 0444/31).

CERES

To escort NIEUW HOLLAND to Berbera. (C. in C. E.I. 06302/31, to CERES).

Greeks and Italian Ships.

Censor Mauritius reports two Italian ships assaulted by Greek crews at Diego Suarez and by crew of NIVOSE. Italians now confined to ship. It is assumed Italian ships are DUCA, ABRUZZI and SOMALIA. (C. in C. E.I. 06582/31, to Admty etc.)

B.N. 22

Sailed (times) Escorts. AUCKLAND, INDUS. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0720Z/31) List and destinations (0730Z/31).

BERTRAM RICKMERS

My 1300/30. (Interception of BERTRAM RICKMERS and attempted scuttling). Ship was still afloat at 1000 G.M.T./30 anchored in position 014° 06' 041° 40'. All crew escaped Ashore except two Engineer Officers as KANDAHAR had no Power Boat. (C. in C. E.I. 0806/31 to Admty).

French Repatrioes

Your 2044Z/30 has now been passed to Beira. INHARRIME sails 1700/31 for Beira arriving noon/2. Will not accept passengers until destination has been decided.
4. Please instruct British Consul Beira sail INHARRIME with native troops to Reunion and Tamatave with the least possible delay. American Consul-General and his family will be on board. COLONIAL is expected to load p.m./2 and to leave Beira 3/4 for Lourenco Marques.
(Consul-Gen., Lourenco M., 1130/31 to C. in C. E.I.)
Essential that French troops in Portuguese ship COLONIAL should not be permitted to leave Beira in INHARRIME until further instructions have been received concerning their destination.
(Hd. of M. 1410/31 to Consul, Beira.)

If inadvisable.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

French Repatriees. (contd).

If inadvisable to repatriate French native troops either to Reunion or Madagascar, I might be able to accommodate them here for three or four weeks at some inconvenience (Governor, Ceylon T.H.I. 2023/31 to C. in C. E.I.)
My 1410/31. French troops should be repatriated to Reunion and Madagascar in accordance with existing arrangements. (Head of M. 2143/31 to Consul, Beira).

Red Sea Dispositions.

My 1906/30. Add para 4 R.A.F. make daily reconnaissance of Port Massawa. (C. in C. E.I. 12122/31 to Admty). Admty. 2005/30. This would be reassuring to me especially when my Northern striking force is covering convoy to south. See my 1906/30 and 1212/31. As regards air reconnaissance, I hope this will provide information in sufficient time. (C. in C. E.I. 1214Z/31 to C.in C. Med.)

"R" report CITY OF HEREFORD.

British CITY OF HEREFORD made an R distress signal at 14052/31 suspicious vessel in sight. Position 014° 09' S 042°. An H.M. Ship is in the vicinity. (C. in C. E.I. 1450Z/31 to E.I. Sqdn.)
My 1450/31. Distress Message was cancelled at (?1610) G.M.T. in accordance with Admty. Message D.V. (C.in C. E.I. 1746Z/31 to E.I. Sqdn).

TALAMBA CANBERRA W.S.6

Intend TALAMBA escorted by CANBERRA to Seychelles A.M./7. TALAMBA will embark Seychelles Pioneer Troops, and sail P.M./7 to R/V with convoy W.S.6. (C. in C. E.I. 1554Z/31, to CANBERRA etc).

A.M.C. Refits.

Your 2059/28. (Facilities for refitting A.M.C.s in U.S.A.) A.M.Cs. None. (C. in C. E.I. 18062/31 to Admty.)

GREYHOUND, GRIFFIN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GREYHOUND
GRIFFIN
FLAMINGO
AUCKLAND.

Your 1039/31 and 1107/31. Very grateful for GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN. Their early arrival at Suez will enable Jubal Straits to be watched and more adequate protection given to Convoys B.S.22 and S.U.4 which will be passing through Red Sea at this critical time and when operation ATMOSPHERE also taking place. Your 1126/29. Intend FLAMINGO and AUCKLAND shall escort B.N.22 through to Suez whence they will be at your disposal.
(C. in C. E.I. 1930Z/31. to C.in C.Med.)

BERTRAM
RICKMERS
Intelligence.

Interrogation of two prisoners ex BERTRAM RICKMERS carried out 31/3. KANDAHAR 1201Z/30 refers.)
(S.N.O. Red Sea. 2000Z/31 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

31.3.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

RAMSES (German).

Shanghai 29/3. Proceeding down river in ballast.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore, 0821/31 to Admty etc.)

Japanese accepting Navicerts.

Shipping Controller, Singapore, informs me that Local Manager N.Y.K. called on him this morning and after congratulating him effusively on excellent Mediterranean victory announced that N.Y.K. were to accept British Navycert System. Shipping Controller believes O.S.K. and M.B.K. also accepting.
(C.in C. China, 1011/31 to Admty).

Oil for Thailand.

Bangkok telegram No. 213. Governor of Straits Settlements and myself can see no objection to allowing Thailand to have oil within ressonable limits but consider any arrangement made must be subject to Thailand carrying out all obligations regarding supply of rice to Malaya which they have recently (?) reduced.
(C.in C. China, 1015Z/31 to Admty).

ERITREA
RAMB II
Italian escape to Japan.

I have received semi official letter from V.A. Helfrich expressing regret and disappointment at escape to Japan of Italian Sloop ERITREA and RAMB II. He had stationed destroyers (4) and 2 flying boats in Lesser Sunda Island: in Molucca 6 Flying boats ready for action at Ambon and 2 of newest S/Ms near Halmaheira. Netherlands Cruiser DE RUYTER was kept ready in a central position. DELIGHT was undergoing overhaul at Sourabaya and Netherlands Cruiser TROMP was on convoy duty, east of Torres Strait. Owing however to a delay so far unexplained of 36 - 48 hours in radio communication the Italian Ships evidently got through Moluccas unseen. He states for the present he is maintaining his main forces in Molucca, with patrol in Sunda Strait on West coast of Sumatra and in Lesser Sunda Island.
(C.in C. China, 1017/Z/31 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

31.3.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

EISENACH
FELLA
fired.

Punta Arenas, German ship EISENACH Italian ship FELLA set fire by crew early this morning when local authority attempted to board ships. Fire not yet under control but British Legation ask if permission may be granted Master of British ship SALVADOR now in Punta Arenas to assist in extinguishing fire.
(Limon, 0815/31 to Admty).
My 0815/31. Owing to lack of fire control installation ships are well ablaze. German ship heavy list to port. Italian ship ablaze amidships. Believed both will be total loss. Italian crew arrested German crew being rounded up.
(Limon, 1010/31).

IMPERIAL
MONARCH.

My 0808/5. Ship now Barbados discharging 700 tons damaged wheat loading sugar in Lieu. Accident at canal due jammed steering gear no evidence caused by sabotage. Estimated date sailing 12/4.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 0951/31).

NEWBROUGH,
suspicious
ship,
15/3.

Master Br. NEWBROUGH reports suspicious ship sighted 1822 G.M.T./15 in 029° 21 N., 048.25W. 15000 tons 4 masts, one funnel, speed 18 knots. Course 246° parallel to NEWBROUGH who altered to Southward. Ship followed and appeared to be closing until 2052 when appeared to alter to N.W.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 0959/31 to Admty).
See also 1127/31, 1756/31.

Enemy ships
Punta
Arenas.

Charge D'Affairs, Costa Rica, reports Government intended seizing Enemy ships Punta Arenas daybreak today.
No information yet result of action.
Callao pass to PRINCE HENRY.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1029/31 to Admty etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd.)

Suspicious Ship. Your 1032/29. Suspicious vessel was presumably Dutch AAGTEKERK. (C. in C. A.M.I.1033/31 to N.S.H.Q.)

U.S. Guards Italian Ships. Press reports U.S. armed guards have been placed on board all Italian ships in U.S. ports. These include CONTE BIANCAMANO, at Colon, and tanker COLORADO, at San Juan, Puerto Rico. They were seized on the ground that Italians were sabotaging them. (D.S. 573 31/3).

U.S. Coastguard Cutters. Your 1752/29 Navy Dept. still unaware that Coastguard Cutters have been released. Expected President will make announcement on return to Washington. Meantime undesirable for me to approach Navy Department who I believe to be against transfer. (N.A. Washington, 1105/31 to Admty).

Suspicious Ship. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1032/29. Request whether ship sighted by NEWBROUGH resembled description given by KING EDWARD. (D.D.I.C. 1127/31 to S.O.I. Jamaica.) Your 1127/31 Ottawa 1032/29 not received Ref. my 0959/31 topmast and crosstrees on each mast, short superstructure amidships low bridgework and relatively low funnel. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1756/31 to Admty.)

ROYAL CROWN DEMETERTON Your 1222/7 British ROYAL CROWN and DEMETERTON have not arrived this side. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1156/31).

Vichy French Naval Forces. Following from Navy Dept. from Martinque 24/3 State of French Naval Forces West Atlantic(number of officers and men estimat effective). At Fort De France BEARN,450 EMILE BERTIN,750; BARFLEUR,75; VILLE D'YS, 70; MEKONG,80; VAR, 80; Coastal Patrol boat ESPERANTO 15; Seaplane base 56; Pyrotechnic Station, 15; plane maintenance 17; Marine Station 50; (?Military Intelligence) 20; at Guadeloupe JEANNE D'ARC, 750; at Cayenne, Coastal Patrol boat GOUVERNEUR,STROUD, believed 20. (N.A.Washington 1225/31. to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies (contd).

VISON
HUSKY.

Your 1031/29 and my 1206/25. Your difficulties fully appreciated and I concur in either VISON or HUSKY remaining at Trinidad until June.
(C.N.S. Canada 1336/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

COULTARN
survivors.

Picked up 39 survivors from COULTARN (British 3759 tons) (?overdue) at 0517Z/30 in 0600° 18' N 029° 28' W. Second engineer and 2 firemen missing. (Names) (CALIFORNIA, 1458/31 1802/31 to Admty). COULTARN had been in O.B. 302 for Mobile (see N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1216/26). COULTARN believed torpedoed.
(D.S. 574 1/4).

EXCAMBION,
Censorship
evasion.

Purser of American Export Steamship S.S. EXCAMBION which passed through Bermuda Westbound on 15/3 was found to be carrying about 150 letters which evidence shows were handed to him by various persons with object of evading censorship. Purser of EXCALIBUR also suspected of same practice. Request you inform Ambassador of this, which does not seem in accord with helpful co-operation which company is understood to have (?offered)
(C. in C. A.W.I. T.H.I. 1645/31 to N.A. Washington).

HERMONTHIS
MUNCHEN
(German)

Reported sailed 0005 G.M.T.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2341/?31 to PRINCE HENRY)
Press Reports state left unexpectedly disregarding port formalities.
(D.S. 574 1/4).

Australia.

ALEXANDRE
ANDRE
Belgian.

Your 2223/27. Details of crew trouble.
(D.N.O. Queensland 06552/31 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.3.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ERODONA (torpedoed 16/3).

Grateful for assistance rendered by VISENDA. Convey my congratulations to her Captain, Officers and men on bringing safely to port under such adverse conditions.
(C. in C. W.A. 1045/31 to S.O.N.T. 1050/31 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

COULTARN

British 3759 tons, possibly torpedoed. See America and West Indies.

CLAN OGILVY

British 5802 tons, torpedoed 21/3, now presumed sunk.
(D.S. 574 1/4).

GHANA

British 8077 tons, torpedoed 23/3 now presumed sunk.
(D.S. 574/ 1/4).

MEMNON. (torpedoed 11/3)

My 1145/26/3. Following from survivors Vessel torpedoed when steaming at 15½ knots zig zag No. 5. Torpedo struck No. V Hatch. Submarine believed German surfaced after ship had sunk. Master of French ship KILISSI met at sea gave great assistance and advised against entering Dakar.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1549/31 to Admty.)

S/M's Reported.

Estimated U Boat dispositions.

D.D.I.C. 1336/31)

S/Ms Attacked.

0207

By STUART, 53.20 N. 26.35 E.
(See Mediterranean).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Watch for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

A visual reconnaissance of Brest to-day showed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still in their previously reported positions there; and, in order to deal with them should they leave harbour, C.in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. (to which he has today transferred his flag) with such cruisers as he thinks fit will relieve HOOD, NIGERIA, and FIJI in the Biscay area on the 4th April when the latter leave that area to re-fuel in the U.K. NIGERIA will join convoy H.G.57 on the 3rd April as Escort to the U.K.; and REPULSE and FURIOUS will leave Gibraltar on about the 4th April for home. The Biscay S/M Patrol is increasing; but TIGRIS is to leave it on the 5th, H.32 and H.50 are today returning to the U.K. with defects, and concern is felt by F.O.S. at the apparently serious lack of endurance of O.24 and consequent drastic shortening of vitally important patrols.

Owing to the threat of air attack at Plymouth KENYA is to remain in the Clyde for the present.

ECHO and ACTIVE are to come under the orders of F.O.i/c Iceland on arrival, for duties as required by C.S.1, attacking U boats reported near Reykjavik, and acting as extra striking force for convoys in darkness. They will be based on Hvalfjord or Reykjavik.

SUFFOLK is to take over the duties of NORFOLK in support of Denmark Straits Patrol.

S.S. BRAVERDALE was reported torpedoed at 2304 G.M.T. in 60° 30' N. 29° 19' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

Only convoys of over 11 knots and independently sailed ships are to zig-zag. Evasive steering is no longer to be carried out, and evasive steering diagrams are to be withdrawn from merchant ships and destroyed.

British Air Activity.

Attacks by Bomber Command were made last night on Bremen (22 a/c), Emden (7 a/c) and Rotterdam (3 a/c).

Route patrols today were restricted by bad weather.

A Beaufort of Coastal Command attacked and hit with torpedo a merchant ship of about 2000 tons, a straggler from a convoy, off the Danish coast.

11 Hampdens were despatched today to attack the enemy battle cruisers in Brest, but did not reach the target on account of lack of cloud cover.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Convoy H.X. B.M.14.

Convoy H.X. B.M. 14 (7 ships) was attacked three times today in the south of St. George's Channel and off Milford Haven. The Tankers CHESAPEAKE, SAN CONRADO, HILDEFJORD, KAIA KNUDSEN and ADELLEN were damaged. HILDEFJORD and ADELLEN are reported to be burning fiercely (the latter at Milford Haven, former sank later), the SAN CONRADO holed in the engine-room burning fiercely, the CHESAPEAKE with an unexploded bomb possibly on board, and KAIA KNUDSEN was towed into Milford Haven.

On the East Coast QUORN with Convoy F.S.51 was twice attacked during today. QUORN sustained minor damage. S.S. SAMBRE (Belgian) was unsuccessfully attacked whilst at anchor off Humber L.V. twice today. S.S. ST. MAGNUS was attacked and slightly damaged at 0240 today off Tod Head and is believed to have hit her attacker.

Several fishing Trawlers were attacked this evening off Thorshaven in the Faroes; and the A/S Trawler SWORD DANCE was damaged by near misses off the Humber at 1610.

Seven Skuas of 801 Squadron were damaged by air attack on St. Eval R.A.F. Station p.m. today.

Considerable damage to buildings was done in a raid on Portsmouth Dockyard last night, and also at 1225 today by machine-gun bullets at Portland.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated extensively last night off the East Coast and possibly in the Bristol Channel.
Operations consistent with sea mining were carried out in daylight today by enemy aircraft, in the swept Channels off Spurn Head and in the Thames Estuary and off the coast of East Anglia.

Mining of Humber.

Five Mines were exploded by S.A. Gear this morning off the Humber and five spontaneous explosions were reported during this afternoon; the port was re-opened at 1214.

Hartlepool was opened at 0815.

Two Mines were exploded by S.A. at 0930 this morning in the Thames.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL

F.O., Force H desires to give RENOWN and ARK ROYAL 48 hours, or preferably 4 days, in harbour on completion of Operation "Winch" to make good machinery defects.

Italian
M.V's

Consul, Teneriffe, reports that CAPO ALGA and BURANO left there at 2100 today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

ASAKA

The South African Govt. do not wish to raise any question of contraband search of Japanese ASAKA should she visit a Union port but will withhold facilities and supplies. No action is therefore to be taken by naval authorities.

Enemy Shipping.

German NORDMARK at Para has completed loading and is ready for sea. Italian PAMPANO at Pernambuco has been detained by Brazilian authorities pending payment for bunkers. German BABITONGA has been given permission to sail from Santos for Vladivostok; she has 1000 tons of diesel oil in drums.

Mediterranean.

Cruiser Sqdns.

C.in C. proposes in view of the small number of cruisers in Mediterranean Fleet to abolish the 3rd C.S. and embody all cruisers in 7th C.S. formed in 2 divisions with R.A. Glennie as R.A.2, 7th C.S.

Yugoslav Coast.

Certain dangerous areas off the Yugoslav Coast have been proclaimed. REGENT has been instructed that ships are not to be attacked in Yugoslav territorial waters.

830 Air Sqdn.

C.in C. Med. does not concur with Air Ministry that mining is the primary function of 830 Sqdn. (18 Swordfish, Malta). Their primary function is torpedo attack on enemy shipping, which, given adequate reconnaissance, is "positive and deadly as compared with the lucky dip character of mining operations".

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Ships at Massawa.

Attempt is being made by the military authorities, to get in touch with the Italian C.in C. (Duke of Aosta), to inform him that if ships in Massawa harbour, of which there are reported to be 26, are scuttled we shall consider ourselves relieved of the responsibility of feeding or evacuating the Italian population of Eritrea and Abyssinia.

Massawa.

R.A.F. reconnaissance of Massowa was to cease from p.m. today owing to the departure of No.14 Sqdn., but on representations by C.in C. E.I., as to the need for its continuance at this critical period and while Operation "Atmosphere" is in progress, Air Ministry are asking A.O.C. Middle East to meet the requirement from some other squadron.

Italian destroyer sunk by F.A.A.

F.A.A. aircraft from EAGLE sank the LEONE, one of the 3 Italian destroyers which left Massawa this morning.
The vessel, was reported sunk this afternoon in 10.09 N., 39.55 E.

Force T.

Force T (HERMES and ENTERPRISE) is to carry out a patrol from Seychelles from 3/4 to 10/4.

America and West Indies.

Scuttling of Enemy Ships.

Over a dozen enemy merchant vessels were scuttled today in American ports on the America and West Indies Station, 4 German at Callao, Peru; 1 German at Paita, Peru; 1 German and 3 Italian at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela;
1 German at Guayaquil, Ecuador;
1 Italian at Tampico, Mexico; and
1 German and 1 Italian at Punta Arenas, Costa Rica.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.1941. Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Included among the 4 at Callao were the HERMONTHIS and MUNCHEN, which left yesterday without papers, and were intercepted today by PRINCE HENRY. They set themselves on fire and were later sunk by gunfire from PRINCE HENRY and the Peruvian warship ALMIRANTE GRAU respectively.

Seizures. A number of other enemy vessels in North American ports were taken into preventive custody by the United States.

American Aircraft. N.A. Washington requests details of the part played by the Fleet Air Arm in the action off Crete, as the information may influence U.S. Navy Dept. in connection with possible re-design of Grumman aircraft.

Australia.

Mines were located in the Bass Straits today. It is not known whether they are part of a minefield laid in November last or a fresh lay.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of C. in C.H.F. transferred.	My flag has been transferred to KING GEORGE V. (C. in C. H.F. 0903/1.).
Firing on Unseen Targets.	S.8513/F.O.6. Reference Air Ministry letter S.7890/F.O.6. dated 19th February,1941 the proposed new rule for opening fire by H.M. Ships on "unseen" targets, contained in para. 1. of the Minutes attached to the above letter. Admiralty have submitted following amended rule for Air Ministry's consideration. 3. Your comments on (vii) (a) of the draft rule in para 2. above are invited. 4. Your comments are also sought on a proposal submitted by C. in C. Portsmouth supported by C. in C. Nore that consideration be given to permit destroyers fitted with R.D.F. which does not re-act to I.F.F. to engage "unseen" targets. (Air Ministry F.O.6. 1050/1 to H.Q. Air Commands.).
KENYA.	In view of the threat of air attack at Plymouth it has been decided that KENYA is to remain in the Clyde for the present. 2. KENYA may be at 12 hours' notice for 48 hours to carry out necessary repairs to boiler work and machinery. 3. During this period arrangements should be made to de-perm the ship in accordance with F.O.i/c Greenock's 2120/31. (1st. S.L. 1347/1.).
Division between Plymouth and W.A. Commands.	Admiralty Message 909A of 31/4. This modification is to come into Force at 2359/4. (D.O.D.H. 1444/1.).
Iceland. Duties of ECHO and ACTIVE.	My 2043/30 para. 3. On arrival ECHO and ACTIVE will be based on Hvalfjord or Reykjavik and will come under the orders of F.O.i/c Iceland for duties in the following order of priority.

/A. to be at.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. Contd.

Iceland Duties of ECHO and ACTIVE.

A. To be at the disposal of C S One when required.
B. Attacking U-Boats reported in the vicinity of Reykjavik.
C. To act as extra striking force during darkness for Convoys that are routed within a reasonable distance of Iceland.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to inform F.O. i/c Iceland when this is desirable.
(R.A.D. 1936/1.).

Movements.

5th D.F. Your 1813/31. Intend sailing KELLY, KASHMIR, KELVIN, JACKAL at 2000 today to arrive Nab. at 0630/2 to join escort of RESOLUTION. (C. in C. Plymouth 1157/1.).

UNDAUNTED. Intend to sail UNDAUNTED from Portsmouth at 1800/30. Route CTA 38 Cape Spartel 10 miles 0600/14. (Capt. S.S. 1203/1.).

SUFFOLK. NORFOLK. On completion of duties ordered in my 1926/1, SUFFOLK is to proceed to Reykjavik subsequently acting in support of Denmark Straits Patrol Lines as instructed by C.S.1.
C.S.1. in NORFOLK is to meet SUFFOLK at Reykjavik and after transfer of duties is to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1935/1.).

Operations.

Rosemary and Lousy Banks Patrol. H.M. Trawler WINDERMERE sailed to patrol in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 1831/9/3. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0740/1.).

East Coast Convoy Protection. Cancel convoy protection tonight. (C. in C. Nore 0957/1.).

/0.9. 0.10. Remain.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

O.9.
O.10. Remain on patrol until reasonable limit of your endurance is reached or until after dark 6/4 whichever is the earlier then return to Plymouth as routed by S.S. (F.O.S. 1156/1 to O.9., O.10.).

TIGRIS. TIGRIS is to be ordered to leave Patrol A.M./S and is to return to Holy Loch. (F.O.S. 1157/1.).

O.24. Am concerned by apparent serious lack of endurance of Netherlands Sub. O.24 on data received from S.O.D.S. and consequent drastic shortening of vital important patrols. Request early remarks by signal after arrival. (F.O.S.1859/1 to Capt.S.S.).

H.50. Negative position 81. Hove to on the surface for 30 hours due to Gale. P.c. and s. 049° 43' N., 011° 17' W., 010° 2 knots. Tow cables foul of fore plane, if necessary and weather permitting intend to proceed Irish waters to clear them. (H.50. 2000/1 to F.O.S.).
Fore Hydroplane jammed half turned in. Unable to dive. My position 047° 43' N., 008° 40' W. Hove to. Request escort. (H.32. 2152/1 to F.O.S.).

Dover Patrols. No patrols tonight unless weather moderate: (V.A. Dover 1535/1.).

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. Dispositions to intercept. (V.C.N.S.1930/1
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.	Patrols FAIR and UNST are being flown today and patrol off South of Iceland by battle A/C as for 31/3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0730/1.). Patrol by 18 Group altered to cross-over as follows. Nothing sighted throughout patrol. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/1.). Patrol S T A N D is now in operations. (C. in C. Rosyth 1528/1.). My 2244/2/2. A/A ships will be stationed in Thames Estuary from p.m./2 until further notice. Orders for engaging aircraft are as in your A 257 of 6/2. (C. in C. Nore 1016/1 to N.O.F.C.).
Clydebank Smoke Production scheme.	Understood Air Ministry state that scheme is unacceptable in all northerly winds because night flying from Abbotsinch and Renfrew will be developed for training. If it is worthwhile to develop this scheme, it appears equally desirable that it should always function on moonlit nights, training giving way to defence. All dark nights would remain available for night flying instruction. If occasional periods during moonlight were required for night flying instruction, mutual local arrangements could, no doubt, be made. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow 1241/1.).
Escort.	Expect close escort one Albacore aircraft from 1830 till dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/1, to RESTIGOUCHE.).
Bombing Restriction.	Request t.b.r. from daylight tomorrow between 49° N., and 52° N., and between 8° W., and 12° W. Request air protection during daylight hours. (F.O.I. 2337/1.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

CHESAPEAKE attacked twice.

(British Tanker, 8955 Tons) Bombed off Tuskar. (CHESAPEAKE 0855/1.).
Received 0900 G.M.T. 20 Miles North Smalls Bombed CHESAPEAKE. (Burnham Radio, Recd. 1020/1.).
20 miles North Smalls. Planes still attacking CHESAPEAKE. (Plymouth W/T 0923/1.).
Ten miles S.W. St. Govans CHESAPEAKE attacked. (Burnham Radio 1600/1.).
Bomb possibly in Summer Tank leak one wounded. (CHESAPEAKE 1642/1.).

IMPULSIVE attacked.

Help. My position 52° 5' N., 5° 40' W. (IMPULSIVE 0957/1.).
2 Enemy Aeroplanes course 250° height 5,000 feet. (IMPULSIVE 1001/1.).
My 0957. Aircraft last seen steering South. (IMPULSIVE 1041/1.).

SAN CONRADO. bombed.

(British Tanker, 7982 Tons), 325° The Smalls 13 miles SAN CONRADO bombed. Require tug. (CHESAPEAKE 1015/1.).
A/S YORK CITY with convoy H.X. 114 reports one ship on fire and another hit by bombs at 1025 when 20 miles 320° from Smalls. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1110/1.).
Proceed to assist ship bombed 320° The Smalls 20. (C. in C. Plymouth 1121/1 to IMPULSIVE.).
Rescue tug CAROLINE MOLLER sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1217/1.).
My 1110. It now appears SAN CONRADO holed in engine room. No other ship hit. Rescue Tug CAROLINE MOLLER and A/P Trawler ARMANA have been sent to assist. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1240/1.).
Proceed with all despatch to assist SAN CONRADO. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1415/1 to ST.OLAVES.).

/HILDEFJORD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

HILDEFJORD.	My 1240/1. YORK CITY reports at 1315/1 Tanker HILDEFJORD afloat but burning fiercely 5 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1540/1.). Sailed ST.CLAVES in accordance with your 1415/1. E.T.A. 1600/2. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1550/1.).
Portsmouth Air Raid. Night 31/1.	Following damage was sustained in the Dockyard on the night 31/1. Approx. 80 feet length of Torpedo Store Depot., demolished, etc. (Supt.C.E.Portsmouth 1045/1.).
Convoy F.S.61. QUORN attacked.	One aeroplane course and height unknown, now bombing. My position 52° 7' N., 1° 52' E., course 034, speed 20 knots. (QUORN 1234/1.). Help. (QUORN 1238/1.). 2 bombs no hits. (QUORN 1235/1.). Fighters now being sent to QUORN. (Nore W/T 1256/1.). My 1234. Enemy aircraft returned to South. (QUORN 1256/1.). One enemy aircraft course 000° height 1000 feet. My position 52° 17' N., 1° 57' E. (QUORN 1318/1.). Am being shadowed by one aircraft my position 53° 13' N., 1° 13' E., course 324, speed 20 knots. (QUORN 1642/1.). Enemy aircraft bombing. (QUORN 1646/1.). One enemy aircraft shadowing. My position 53° 16' N., 1° 6' E., course 324 speed 10 knots. (QUORN 1656/1.). My 1656. 3 more bombs no hits. (QUORN 1659/1.). Fighter assistance despatched to QUORN. (Nore W/T 1708/1.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

WHINNYFOLD. (Trawler) damaged.
YORIK (Trawler) attacked.

At 1920/31/3 in 60° 30' N., 9° 35' W. Trawlers WHINNYFOLD and YORIK were attacked by E/A. probably Heinkel III. WHINNYFOLD suffered two near misses from bombs, many hits from machine gun bullets, and three wounded. YORIK sustained no damage or casualties. Both Trawlers now at Scrabster (A.C.O.S. 1550/1.).

ONTARIO. (Trawler) sunk 31/3.

Trawlers TETRARCH and CLACTON arrived Stornoway 1500/1 with entire crew of Grimsby Fishing Trawler ONTARIO. ONTARIO sunk at 0630/31 by enemy aircraft in 60° 15' N., 11° W., whilst proceeding from Grimsby to Iceland. 2 slightly injured. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1559/1.).

Portland Air-Raid.

Air Raid at 1225 on 1/4/41., resulted in extensive damage by machine gun bullets to roof, walls and windows of property requisitioned as living quarters at P.W.S.S. Lulworth. (N.O.I.C. Base Portland 1610/1, F.O.I.C. Portland 1853/1.).

Convoy F.N.

Fighters needed for convoy AGENT. My position 52° 13' N., 1° 56' E. (SOUTHDOWN 1726/1.).
My 1726. Single Aircraft flew eastward. No bombs dropped. (SOUTHDOWN 1735.).

ADELLEN.

(British, 7984 Tons.) 4 Enemy aircraft attacking ships off Milford Haven at 1800. ADELLEN bombed and on fire. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1815/1.).
One enemy A/C attacked Tanker ADELLEN dropped 4 bombs hit her amidships on port beam 3 (more?) enemy A/C approached one of which was hit by our fire and last seen flying East with smoke trail followed by (Hurricane?) fighter. Have boarded Tanker both bridge and forward tank well alight. Proceeding to rejoin our Convoy. (DERBY COUNTY 1950/1.)

/ADELLEN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activities. Contd.

ADELLEN. Contd.	Burning fiercely. Anchored one mile South of Haven. Drifter with fire appliance standinb by, but cannot approach. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.). 2227/1.).
Faroe Islands.	Help Thorshaven. (Lyness W/T. 2024/1.). My 2024/1. Heinkel III K attacked various fishing ships near Thorshavn. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2210/1.).
Enemy A/C. crashed.	1 German aircraft crashed in sea 1 mile South of Smalls. Airman afloat in dinghy. A/P Trawler WELBECK directed to vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2113/1.).
ST. MAGNUS.	(British, 1530 Tons). Arrived Aberdeen today from Leith. Reports that at 0240/1/4 she was attacked by one enemy A/C off Tod Head. One bomb was dropped near port quarter. A/C carried away aerial and kite gear. ST. MAGNUS opened fire and hits were claimed. Portions of A/C fell on ship and another in sea. A/C then made off in easterly direction losing height. (C. in C. Rosyth 2153/1.).
SWORD DANCE.	(A/S Trawler). Damaged by near misses from bombing also by machine gun fire near outer Dowsing at 1610 today. No casualties. (F.O. Humber 2200/1.).
KARL KNUDSON.	Bombed abaft bridge. Towed into Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2227/1.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Hartlepool.

Port now open.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0815/1).

Operation S.N.8. GALATEA, ARETHUSA, SUFFOLK.

My 1242/29 and C.in C. Plymouth's 1552/3 Only two of 17th Division will be available for this operation. Request additional two Destroyers may be detailed as close screen.
(R.A.M.L. 0914/1).
Your 1242/29/3 not to all addressees. Concur.
(ii) F.O.C.2.C.S. GALATEA with ARETHUSA will provide close escort and SUFFOLK will cover operation.
(C.in C. H.F. 1926/1 to R.A.M.L.)
GALATEA and ARETHUSA will be required to escort 1st M/L Squadron for operation S.N.8. Time of sailing from Port Z.A. 0630/5.
(C.in C. H.F. 1945/1).

Operation B.S.53.

Postponed on account of weather. Cancel my 1152/31. Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 1830/2nd and take departure from 10 F. Buoy at 1100/3 to initial position. Returning to 20 F Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin 1245/3.
(S.O. M/L Immingham, 0915/1).

Operation P.W.7.

Your 1002/30/3. Ready. AWaiting favourable weather.
(BEEHIVE, 1051/1 to C.in C. Nore).

East India Dock Basin.

What is considered to have been a mine detonated inside East India Dock Basin at 0005/30/3. No witnesses. No casualties to shipping, but slight damage to dock gate.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1105/1 and 1550/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Safety Device against Drifting Mines.	(V.C.N.S. 1140/1). See Technical.
Operation G.W.	Request 3rd M/S Flotilla maybe sailed from Portland so as to be ready to leave Falmouth on 6/4. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1201/1 to R.A.C.F.)
Humber.	Open to navigation. (F.O.Humber, 1214/1).
Thames Estuary.	Two S.A.Mines detonated at 0930and 0931/1 as follows. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1342/1).
Bristol Channel.	At 1025/1 one Red Mine detonated by S.A. Trawler 80 degs. distant 1.5 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt: M/S Bristol Channel, 1715/1).
Spurn Point and Hull.	The following five mines were exploded today. Details. Three spontaneous explosions reported at 0241, and two at 0259 thought to be i the vicinity of the Binks. (F.O.Humber, 1833/1).
Horsea.	Parachute mine type DM Mk.IV rendered safe at Horsea. (RM DO Yarmouth, 1910/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TAIPING, TARONGA, SPANIEN, ORION.	(a) Oslo. My 1654/15 para.(1) TAIPING reported completing at Akers yards 22/3. Armament reported similar to TARONGA. (2) Ref: my 1252/18 TARONGA still at Akers yards 22/3. (Stockholm 1217/1 to D.N.I.)
SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU.	Visual reconnaissance of Brest, 1.4.1941 shows SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still present in positions previously reported. (B.D.I.C. 1639/1).

Technical.

Safety Device against Drifting Mines.	To reduce the danger to ships running paravanes from drifting Mark XX mines with lower antenna intact, the following policy has been approved:- (V.C.N.S. 1140/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Zigzagging and Evasive steering.

Only convoys of over 11 knots and independently sailed ships are to zig-zag. Evasive steering is no longer to be carried out and N.C.S.O. should withdraw Evasive steering diagrams from Merchant ships and destroy them. When to westward of 12° W., all convoys in a submarine danger zone should normally make a drastic alteration of course under following conditions:-

Admty. 1907/28/9/40 and 1734/9/10/40 and C.B. 4100 Sect: F. Part III are cancelled.
(D.A/S W. 1338/1 "A" Message, Home Station).

Military Convoys.

COMORIN
GLENARTNEY.

Admty 2253/29 and 1728/31. A/S escort for COMORIN and GLENARTNEY. ASSINIBOINE from Liverpool. BOREAS from Greenock. S.O. of A/S escort BOREAS.
(C.in C. W.A. 1556/1 to F.O.I.C.'s Greenock, Liverpool).

ULSTER
MONARCH.

Your 1920/28 F.O.I.C. Greenock reports completion p.m./2. Your 1454/27 Greenock is providing accommodation and it is not desired to re-transfer after so short an interval. Suggest that 1920/28 clear up all defects now and return here not earlier than next week.
(V.A.C.T.C. 1721/1 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

M/L.1019.	Motor launch 1019 has not been seen since (corrupt group) Sheringham and attempts to communicate by radio telephony have failed. ML.1019 may have entered Humber and trawler H.M.S. SWORD DANCE is searching astern. (VERDUN 0825/1).
WALLFLOWER (Corvette).	Your 1850/31. WALLFLOWER developed engine defects. (WESTERN ISLES 1028/1).
DORIS.	(Barge). Capsized while in tow of HENDON and foundered in Pentland Firth 31/3/41. No casualties. (R.A.Scapa, 1107/1).
SELKIRK.	My 1540/31. SELKIRK delayed 24 hours with an electrical defects. (F.O.Humber, 1556/1).
BROVIG.	Escort damaged S/S BROVIG Stornoway to Holyhead for onward escort to Barry, Docks. (C.in C. W.A. 1625/1 to VERONICA). Sailed VERONICA in accordance with C.in C. Western Approaches 1625/1. E.T.A. Stornoway 0800/2. (WESTERN ISLES 2015/1).
Unknown ship.	S.O.S. Distress Signal. In 51° 18'N., 4° 45'W. (Liverpool, TOR 1817/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MIRROR
Cable
Operation.

Your 1246/30 approved.
(D.S.D. 1208/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SHEFFIELD,
Nemours
Incident
30/3.

Further to SHEFFIELD's 1515/30.
Existence of shore defences at Nemours quite unknown. Three air attacks by Glen Martins in waves of five were made on passage back to Gibraltar, in two cases bombers were escorted by two fighters. High level and glide bombers were employed but Standard of accuracy was not high. SHEFFIELD suffered one near miss but was undamaged. Bombs appeared to be about 250 lbs.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1250/1 to Admty).

Operation
WINCH.

Force "H" will shift to Malta Broadcast at 1000 G.M.T./2. RENOWN will maintain W/T guard on Gibraltar Broadcast.
Request Malta W/T may keep watch from 1200 G.M.T./2nd to 2000 G.M.T./3 and for further 24 hours if operation is postpone
(S.O.Force H, 1503/1 to N.O.I.C. Malta).
Departure postponed owing to westerly gale. Anticipate weather will moderate sufficiently by 0200/2. 1/4 remains D.1.
(F.O.H. 1850/1 to Admty).

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL.

If circumstances admit it is most desirable that RENOWN and ARK ROYAL should have 48 hours or preferably 4 days in harbour on completion of operatio WINCH in order to make good machinery defects.
(F.O.Force H, 1802/1 to Admty).

PANDORA
CAIRNDALE.

Ref: 1900/30 from Admty. Request you will pass following message to BIRMINGHAM. PANDORA is in close company with CAIRNDALE with object of sinking any Raider which attacks her. W/T Watch for PANDORA in accordance with 120 A.Z. of 1635/17/2.
Request you will keep PANDORA informed of proposed fuelling arrangements of U/Boat.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1810/1 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Genoa Intelligence.

Following (B.1.) Genoa 27/3 (refers to CAVOUR, ANDREA DORIA, etc.) (S.O.(I) Gib: 1826/1 to Admty).

FORTUNATA.

Following intercepted from Madrid to Master of Italian S.S. FORTUNATA at Port Lyautey (Begins) Proceed. (Ends). (F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1 to Admty). FORTUNATA expected to sail from Port Lyautey shortly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1833/1 to Trawlers of Western Patrol.)

Germans in MAGALLANES.

Have intercepted Spanish MAGALLANES New York to Bilbao (Portugalete) 250 German passengers, mostly military aged. Request instructions, MALVERNIAN has no spare accommodation. (MALVERNIAN 2130Z/1 to Admty),

Italian CAPO ALGA, BURANO.

Left here 2100/1. (Consul, Teneriffe, 2145/1 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F Second class bearings of enemy unit at 1914 G.M.T./1 from Scarborough 205° Flowerdown 208° Lands End 196°. (F.O.C.N.A. 2321/1 to N.A. Stn.) (Probably refer to U/Boats See 0245/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

PAMPANO
Italian.

At Pernambuco, detained by Brazilian authorities pending payment for bunkers supplied by A.P. Co.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo. 0015Z/1 to Admty.)

NORDERNEY
German.

Para reports that as far as can be ascertained ship has completed loading and is ready for sea.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0028Z/1).

Suspicious
Tanker.

Your 1943/27 (descriptions of German raiders obtained from Norwegians from whalecatchers intercepted by SCARBOROUGH.)
U.S. Ship IBERVILLE reports sighting on 6/3 in 033° 30' N. 061° 20' W. large half-loaded tanker painted dark grey straight stem counter stern, no guns, no colours, apparently stopped. On IBERVILLE's approach Tanker slowly crossed her bows and stopped again heading 000° Appeared to be loitering and Master of opinion Tanker was fuelling submarine.
(S.O.(I). Capetown, 1035B/1. to Admty.)

ASTURIAS

Leave K 33 5/4 and proceed to patrol L 32 Cruisers leave Plate 4/4 and proceed up trade routes to arrive K 33(d) 8/4 Oiler BROOMDALE leaves Plate 4/4 for sea R/V "PERCIVAL."
(R.A.S.A.D. 1045Z/1 to ASTURIAS.)

Raider
Intelligence

For information. Whalers SOLGLIMT, PELAGOS and OLEWEGGER (corrupt group) 11 catchers were captured 14/1 and 16/1 in about 059° S. 002° 30' W by Raider known as 33 or PENGUIN. Appearance similar UGANDA Raider No. 16. HANSA ship about 12,000 tons (details).
(C. in C. S.A. 1053/1. to S.A. Stn.)

ALCANTARA

Your 1445N/29 my 1045Z/1. Cancel my 1043Z/23. Request ALCANTARA be directed to proceed K 33 when available.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1120Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

Supplies Japanese ships

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

Supplies Japanese Ships.

My 1221/17 (Oseka S.S. Co., endeavouring to obtain increased supplies fuel at Montevideo) River Plate Coal Coys. have been instructed to limit supplies of coal to Japanese ships to Galley-Coal.
(S.C.(I) Montevideo, 1142/1).

U/B Tactics.

Admty. 0113/28. Experience shows U-Boats generally shadow by day and attack at night. Following methods are recommended to counter this.
(D.A/S.W. 1335/1 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.M.A.)

CUMBERLAND risk from German M.Vs.

Lima reports German ships MONSERRATE and LEIPZIG at Callao are on fire and are apparently endeavouring to foul entrance of harbour. Uruguayan Authorities will be asked to take special precautions during visit of CUMBERLAND.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo. 1403Z/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Lima reports German Ships HERMONTHIS and MUNCHEN sailed from Callao last night 31/3 without papers.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo. 1456Z/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BABITONGA

Am informed by Brazilian C.N.S. that BABITONGA has been given permission to sail from Santos for Vladivostock. She has 1000 tons of diesel oil in drums. Ambassador seeing M.F.A. S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C. in C. S.A.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1538/1).

Recovery of cable by CAMBRIA

Your 1252/27/3. Originally to C. in C. S.A. only. Refers to Admty 1945/26/3. Subject Recovery of cable. Reply has been held up pending further information of the raider which sank BRITANNIA in 07 24 N. 24 03 W. on 25/3 no further information received consider CAMBRIA can proceed but have no ship available for escort or cover.
(C. in C. S.A. 1551N/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CANTON

Your 1946/31/3 and my C104/28/3. Anticipated four weeks inclusive of trials to complete fitting catapult in U.K., depending on extent preparatory work has progressed in U.S.A. Not intended at present to increase the gun range of CANTON. (D.O.D.(F) 1638/1 to C in C S.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

BRITANNIA survivors.

My 1311/30. DUNNOTAR CASTLE to endeavour to intercept Spanish ship CABO HORNOS and remove survivors ex BRITANNIA) If not met continue passage to Freetown with LAROS BAY.
(C. in C. S.A. 1712/1 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE)

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS
BIRMINGHAM
S.L. 70

My 1517/31 and your 1900/30 CHRISTIAN HUYGENS has defect which will prevent her sailing until about 1400/2. Intend BIRMINGHAM shall sail with ship though this will delay Junction with S.L.70 until A.M./5.
(C. in C. S.A. 1825N/1 to Admty.)
Your 1900/30/3. BIRMINGHAM leaving Freetown 2/4 will have enough fuel to remain with convoy for the whole passage if required allowing 14 knots after joining until meeting local escort, then 20 knots to Scapa and 10% remaining if required rapidly. If BIRMINGHAM fuels at "PEDESTAL" she will have to leave convoy A.M./10 in about 031° N rejoining about 037° 30' N. P.M./12 earliest, if oiler is met punctually and weather suitable for fuelling on meeting. BIRMINGHAM will be instructed to fuel at "PEDESTAL" unless otherwise ordered.
(C. in C. S.A. 1905N/1 to Admy.)

ASAKA
S. African
Attitude.

My 1142/22/3. South African Gov. do not wish to raise any question of contraband search of ASADA should she visit a Union, port, but will withhold facilities and supplies to ship and watch movements of her personnel coming ashore. Matter must be left to S.A.G. and no action taken by naval authorities at Union ports beyond reporting ship's arrival to Admiralty.
(Head of M., 2205/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.L. 70

U/B in vicinity.
(See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.2340/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Hurricanes.	Am not now sending Sunderland T. 9048 as cannot arrive Malta until p.m./2. Propose you carry out first alternative with 1 Sunderland and 1 Glenn Martin or second alternative with 2 Glenn Martins. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0741/1 to H.Q. Malta).
A.S. 23	Sailed 0700/1. (list 9 ships). HOLLANDIA for Alexandria, remainder Port Said. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 0904/1 to C. in C. Med.)
M.A.S. Patrol, Pantellaria.	URSULA reports M.A.S. patrol operating by day and night up to 25 miles between S. and S.W. from Pantellaria. (Cdr. S.1 1005/1 to UNIQUE.)
Yugoslavia	For D.M.I. Mass Belgrade 31/3 (Authentic Military Source) informed Yugoslavia will first attack Albania driving out Italians and seizing ports. Last night 800 Germans left by Steamer. (M.A.Washington 1032/1 to (W.O.)
Oiler for Red Sea.	C. in C. E.I. 19062/30 (Red Sea Disposition to deal with Italian destroyers). Oiler BRITISH COLONEL is to be brought to short notice and sailed as required by C. in C. E.I. (C. in C. Med. 1059/1. to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
Tripoli and convoy bombed. Heinkel off Alexandria.	Operational Summary No. 295 up to 1200 hrs. 1/4/41. Night 30/31. 3 Wellingtons dropped 4250 lbs bombs on docks railway depot and shipping Tripoli Harbour. Further 2000 lbs bombs dropped on convoy of 10 ships between 8000 and 10000 tons 5 miles off Tripoli. No hits. 31/3. 1 Heinkel engaged unsuccessfully by A.A. guns off Alexandria at midday. 4 Hurricanes on patrol unable to intercept . No bombs dropped. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1109/1).

3rd and 7th C.S.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Contd.

3rd and 7th C.S.	In view of small number of cruisers in Mediterranean Fleet proposed to abolish 3rd Cruiser Squadron and embody all cruisers in 7th Cruiser Squadron formed in two divisions with Rear Adm. Glennie flying his flag as R.A. 2nd Div. 7th C.S. (C. in C., Med. 1223/1 to Admty.)
Alexandria facilities	Your 2102/1 to C. in C., Med. (definition of functions of Port and Transit Committee) Apparent that Alexandria is working considerably below maximum capacity owing to lack of pontoons. Proposals. (A.D.P. (E) 1230/1 to D. of S.T.)
830 Sqdn. Functions.	Air Ministry X 913 1130/26. Do not concur that mining should be considered primary function of 830 Sqdn. Function of this Squadron is primarily torpedo attack on enemy shipping. No objection to use of Squadron for mining provided that their offensive naval role of torpedo attack is not unduly interfered with. (C. in C., Med. 1233/1 to Air Ministry, H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)
Mined Areas Yugoslavia.	Dangerous areas off Yugoslavian coast have been broadcast in P/L including (A) Planinski Channel. (B) Area inside line from Blityenica Island to W. end of Korcula Island. (C) Within twelve miles of coast between Bar and Dubrovnik. Have these been received?) (D.D.I.C., 1239/1 to C. in C., Med. C.O.I.C. Nile)
Yugoslav territorial waters.	My 2232/19. Ships are not to be attacked in Yugoslav territorial waters. (Capt. S.1. 1343/1 to REGENT)
YORK Salvage.	YORK's 1916/28. Is Fleet construction officer aware of Turkish resources for salvage? Turkish Salvage Co. of Istanbul is efficient, salvage officer being an Englishman. (Controller 1613/1 to C. in C., Med.)

/ULSTER PRINCE..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

A.S.F.22	Sailed 1600/1. (List, 10 ships) ULSTER PRINCE prisoners remainder ballast for Alexandria. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1708/1 to C. in C. Med).
Italian Oil Depots.	United States N.A. Rome, recently returned to Washington informs me from personal observation as follows: (re oil storage depots at Montepellegrino, near Palermo and on the coast at Monopoli. (N.A. Washington, 1720/1 to Admty).
CACHALOT	Admty. 2250/25, para B. Unless you have any urgent operation for CACHALOT on passage or consider that addition of her outfit of mines to stocks at Malta is important, not intended she should embark mines for passage out. Space left available will be used for transport of important stores. (D.O.D. (F) 1724/1 to C. in C. Med.)
Action off Crete. 28/3	Admty. congratulations. (1st S.L. 1932/1) See Lion Copy.
A.N.F.24	Sailed 1700/1 escorts NUBIAN, HEREWARD, PROTECTOR, HYACINTH. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1740/1 to Admty etc.) List, 5 ships (1745/1).
Yugoslav requirements in case of war.	N.A. Belgrade 1903/1 See Lion Copy.

East Indies.

Massawa Reconnaissance.	Have just been informed R.A.F. reconnaissance of Massawa will cease from p.m./1 owing to departure of No. 14 sqdn. I have represented to A.O.C. Sudan, A.O.C. M.E. and C. in C. M.E. the imperative need of its continuing at this critical period and while operation "ATMOSPHERE" is in progress. (C. in C. E.I. 0436/1 to Admty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Massawa Reconnaissance -Contd.

Your 0436/1. Admiralty have taken this up with Air Ministry and they are asking A.O.C. M.E. to meet your requirement from some other squadron. (1st S.L. 1832/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

Dutch territorial waters.

Reference A.D.A. of 25/2/41. report of recent Singapore conference Appendix C para 10. Can it now be confirmed and promulgated that H.M. ships may take naval action against enemy ships or suspected enemy ships inside Dutch territorial waters and that reciprocal facilities have been granted to Dutch warships. (C. in C., E.I., 0656/1 to Admty.)

W.S. 7.

A.M. 1717/17. Present intentions for escorts W.S. 7 DORSETSHIRE will escort from Cape onward. HAWKINS will escort Durban portion from Cape to Durban and onwards. Your 0023/29. Further signal will be made giving escort for Indian and Malayan portion of convoy. (C. in C., E.I. 0814Z/1 to Admty.)

Massawa warning re scuttling.

Passed Admty. for information from Colombo My 0/53007. In transmitting message to Duke Aosta add: (begins) Now that our forces are advancing on Asmara and Massawa we should inform Duke Aosta that if ships in Massawa harbour, of which there are reported to be 25, are scuttled we shall consider ourselves relieved of all responsibility of either feeding Italian population of Eritrea and Abyssinia or removing them from those countries in view of great shortage of shipping in the world and our own requirements. (Ends)
2. Kaid will arrange to convey message to Italian H.Q., Asmara or other suitable local authorities. (Middle East, 0940/1 to Advance Force, Nairobi)

/Force T.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.4.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Force T. Patrol orders.

Force T is to leave Seychelles 3/4 and proceed to patrol in area bounded by position (a) 002° 30' S., 048° (b) 004° 30' S., 048° (c) 002° N., (? 063°) (d) equator, 063°. Patrol area is to be left so as to arrive port Victoria, Seychelles 10/4. Before sailing HERMES is to report intended 0800 G.M.T. position on each day of patrol, which should be commenced at Eastern end of area. (C. in C., E.I. 1636Z/1 to Force T.)

DURMITOR

Your 0655/29. Is to be requisitioned under Defence Regulations and sailed for Calcutta. (D.T.D., 1008/1 to N.O.I.C., East Africa)

Italian Destroyer sunk. ? PANTERA

At 0900 G.M.T./1 R.A.F. reconnaissance reported 2 large Italian destroyers had left Massawa. At 0913 G.M.T./1 EAGLE Swordfish reported 1 destroyer in position 16.10 N. 39.49 E. At 1415 G.M.T. aircraft reported destroyer sunk in position 16.09 N 39.55 E. No details yet available but believe success due to F.A.A. Destroyer may be PANTERA (C. in C., E.I., 1722Z/1 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

MALAYA

Decisions on Items of Alterations and additions. (D. of D., 0525/1 to N.A. Washington.)

NEWBURGH KING EDWARD "Q" Report

S.O. (1) Kingston Jamaica's 1756/31. Probable both NEWBURGH and KING EDWARD sighted Dutch ship AAGTEKERK. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1013/1)

LETITIA

Your 2059/28. Propose LETITIA be sent immediately. Undesirable to employ Canadian facilities for long periods likely to be required for repairs. Expect ship to dock Halifax for inspection in mid April and to require towing to repair Port. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1158/1 to Admty.)

/German.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

German
HERMONTHIS
MUNCHEN
MONSERRATE
LEIPZIG.

Have left Callao according to American press report of 31/3.
(D.D.I.C. 1219/1 to C. in C.'s China A.W.I., S.A., PRINCE HENRY.) See also South Atlantic. 1456/1.
My 1219/1. Reported that HERMONTHIS and MUCHEN sailed Callao 1930/31. Peruvian warships reported in pursuit. Civil aircraft may join in search. MONSERRATE & LEIPZIG reported on fire in entrance of Callao.
(D.D.I.C. 2117/1 to PRINCE HENRY C.in C. A.W.I., C. in C. China.)
American Press report MUCHEN & HERMONTHIS sighted 90 miles north Callao. No time or date given.
(D.D.I.C. 2202/1 to PRINCE HENRY, C. in C China., C. in C. A.W.I.) Both were intercepted by PRINCE HENRY, see 2/4.

TERESA ODERO
TROTTIERA
JOLE FASSIO
SESOSTRIS
Scuttled.

Puerto Cabello reports fired by crews and gutted. Crews imprisoned BACICIN PADRE under strong guard.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1232/1 to Admty).

EISENACH
FELLA.

My 1010/31 Italian ship sunk in deep water, crew of 49 jailed in San Jose. German ship still burning and sinking in shallow water, crew of 44 also jailed San Jose. Crew includes Master. Salvage contemplated by Costa Rican Government.
(Port Limon C.R. 1340/1, to Admty).

BUXTON

Your 1001/17/3 and A.M. 2254/29. Approved to retain BUXTON at Halifax for the present.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1424/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CANTON

Your 0104/28. CANTON arrived Bermuda A.M. /1 has on board 175 Naval Officers and

ratings for .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

CANTON (contd). ratings for passage to U.K. embarked at Freetown. No accommodation available at Halifax and passage by A.M.C's of N. Atlantic Escort Force via. Iceland not recommended as this would keep back equivalent number of R.A.F. ratings. Propose to sail CANTON for U.K. on independent shipping route and then return to U.S. port for refit if required. Suggest consideration to refit in U.K. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1442/1 to Admty).

F.A.A. in Crete Action. Request details of part played by Fleet Air Arm in recent action against Italian Fleet with particular reference to tactics employed and conditions under which torpedo attacks were delivered. Information may influence U.S. Navy Dept. in connection with possible re design of Grumman XTBF 1 to enable it to carry out dive attacks of great value.
(N.A. Washington 1519/1 to D.N.A.D.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH T.C. 10 A.M. 1205/29. Unlikely that QUEEN ELIZABETH will be available to leave Halifax before 10/4. Date of departure of T.C. 10 should therefore be delayed 24 hours.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1553/1 to R.A. 3 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

SOUTHGATE "R" report 16/3. Investigate why SOUTHGATE made RRRR on 16/3. Did she sight Battlecruisers or tanker? How did she escape?
(D.D.I.C. 1702/1 to N.C.S.O. St. John N.B.)

Refits in U.S.A. Policy re reporting movements of British Vessels which may arrive for repairs, Outfit or recondition, in accordance with provisions of the Lend Lease Act.
(B.A.R.M. 1900/1 to Admty).

CERIGO German. GUAYAQUIL reports on fire 2030 G.M.T. today.
(S.O.(I) Callao. 1940/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

A/A Guns in M/Vs.....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

A/A Guns in M/V's fitting in Jamaica.

40 m.m. Bofors A/A guns being mounted in British vessels now sailing independently or in O.B. Convoys. Military gun crew embarked with each gun. As only a limited number of guns are available desired to keep them mounted in vessels in N.Atlantic. Under consideration to fit them in vessels proceeding through Panama Canal, vessels being ordered into Jamaica to hoist out gun and disembark crew which would subsequently require embarking and the gun mounted in homeward bound vessels. A small amount of stiffening is required. Priority would be given vessels without H.A.guns.
Report whether this can be arranged.
(D.T.D. 1952/1 to N.O.I.C. Jamaica).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Methods to counter shadowing by day and attack by night.
(D. A/S W. 1325/1 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.) See South Atlantic.)

Ships Attacked.

BEAVERDALE.

(British 9957 tons, independently routed to U.K.) Following from Resolution Island (Begins) 2306 G.M.T. "SSSS 6050N 2919W. BEAVERDALE torpedoed 2304 G.M.T. no bearing QRM and weak signal (Ends). N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2130/1 to Admty). (D.O.R. 2/4).
Received 2310 G.M.T. from BEAVERDALE, torpedoed 60.50N., 29.19 W.
(Seaforth Radio, 2310/1).

CLAN OGILVY (torpedoed 21/3) BEN WYVIS.

Taken on board at 21.00 G.M.T. 24 men crew from CLAN OGILVY and BEN WYVIS in 11.00N., and 23.50W. Ships in vicinity keep clear rest crew, remainder men in two boats on the sea.
(CABO VILLANO T.O.R. 2133/1).

Submarines Reported.

1200. Submarine sighted on surface by two ships of convoy bearing and distance 315° 10 miles.
(VANQUISHER, 1200/1 to C.in C. W.A.)
Submarine reported approx. position 062° 30'N., 013° 45'W. at 1200/1.
(C.in C. W.A. 1504/1 to Area B).

1524. Indications that second U/Boat is approaching O.B.303 from Westward from approx. position 62° 10'N., 15° 40'W. at 1524/B.S.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1625/1 to VANQUISHER) etc.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1813. Suspected S/M reported in position 250° 10 miles from position 305° Dunnet Head at 1813. 10 miles.
(A.C.O.S. 1904/1 to Scapa Force).
Suspected S/M. reported sighted by LONDON in position 020° Strathy Point 7 miles 1813/1.
(A.C.O.S. 1947/1 to A.I.G. 36).
My 2059/1. Further bearings of enemy transmission indicates U/Boat between Dakar and C.Verde Islands probably in vicinity of Convoy S.L.70 at 1914/1 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 2340/1 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A. DRAGON).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1351/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Protection of Shipping in Irish Sea.

The increase in air threat in the Irish Sea necessitates immediate strengthening of the A.A. escorts for Irish Sea Convoys.
C.in C. Western Approaches has ordered that convoys are not to be permitted to proceed past the Smalls until further orders.
The proposals by C.in C. W.A. for protection of shipping in the Irish Sea against air attack are given in his message 2116/2 to Adty.

H.G. and O.G. convoys.

15th C.S. is to be detached temporarily from the Home Fleet to the Western Approaches for A/A protection of H.G. and O.G. convoys and for defence of Loch Ewe and Oban when in harbour.

C.in C. Nore.

Vice-Admiral Sir George D'O Lyon K.C.B. today relieved Admiral the Hon. Sir Reginald R. Plunkett-Ernle-Erle-Drax K.C.B., D.S.O. as C.in C. Nore.

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

The German battle cruisers were in Brest when P.R.U. was made at 0800 today.

A/A ships in Thames Estuary.

A/A ships are to be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m. today until further notice.

U boat campaign Convoy H.G.57 attacked.

S.S. ALD[illegible]GROVE in Convoy H.G.57 was torpedoed early today in 50° N. 12° 01' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Routine patrols today were restricted by bad weather. Bomber Command operations for tonight were cancelled.
All night patrols by Coastal Command last night were cancelled on account of bad weather, with the exception of a cross over patrol west of Brest which was flown from 0200 today.

An aircraft of Coastal Command sank a 3000 ton merchant ship off Hook of Holland this forenoon. In the afternoon a ship was bombed and apparently hit twice, off Borderney.

Enemy Air Activity.

Air Attacks on trawlers off Faroes.

The increasing frequency of aircraft attacks on trawlers and fish carriers around the Faroes is adversely affecting the supply of fish to Britain. N.O.I.C. Faroes asks for an armed decoy trawler to deal with the situation.

M/S trawlers VALESCA and HORTENSIA were damaged by air attack last night off Cromer.

Attacks on shipping off East Coast.

Ships attacked today included S.S. UMBERLEIGH off South Shields; S.S. ANTICOSTI ex F.N.48 off Harwich; VORTIGERN and Convoy F.S.51 near the Outer Dowsing; Paddle M/S LORNA DOONE off Southwold, (cannon shell causing minor damage and casualties; ship damaged attacking aircraft by her fire); S.S. PERMAIN in F.S.51 sunk east of Spurn Point; A/P Trawler CRAMOND ISLAND sunk off St. Abbs Head. A/P Trawler FORTUNA went to the assistance of CRAMOND ISLAND and has not been heard of since; two lifebuoys from

/ FORTUNA ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Attacks on Shipping off East Coast. (contd.)

FORTUNA were washed ashore on 3/4, time recovery vessel SILVER DAWN was slightly damaged by machine gun fire off Brightlingsea.

H/S Trawlers were unsuccessfully bombed off Portland Bill.

The AMS Station at Thrumster was attacked again this morning. No damage was caused.

S.S. CLAPHAM was attacked off the Turkar at 2045 but suffered no damage other than to a lifeboat.

S.S. WILD ROSE was attacked and damaged p.m. today in St. George's Channel.

Mining.

Spontaneous explosions occurred early this morning in the Humber area.

S.S. MELROSE ABBEY was damaged by the explosion of a drifting mine off Aberdeen.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

FIJI.	FIJI, which with NIGERIA was ordered to relieve Force H on the Bay of Biscay patrol, is not to return to U.K., but to proceed to Gibraltar and join Force H temporarily on its return from Operation "Winch". She will be detached from time to time for escort duties.
Operation "Winch".	RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 5 destroyers left Gibraltar early this morning for Operation "Winch".
MAGALLANES	The Spanish MAGALLANES, intercepted yesterday by MALVERNIAN, was released at 1100 today in 42.43 N., 27.14 W. No Germans were removed from her.
OTUS OLYMPUS	Admty. have ordered S/M's OTUS and OLYMPUS to be kept at short notice for special service.
NIGERIA	Is to R.V. with Convoy H.G. 57 tomorrow and provide ocean escort to U.K.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND.	R.A. S.A.D. in CUMBERLAND arrived at Montevideo this afternoon and leaves again tomorrow on patrol.
Enemy Shipping.	Further enemy merchant ships in South American ports show signs of leaving. Among them is the German BABITONGA, whose capture R.A.S.A.D. considers most important as she may be a supply ship; and the Italian CONTE GRANDE, 25,667 tons.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S.S. HONEYFIELD sunk.	S.S. HONEYFIELD and COULOURAS-XENOS south bound empty were sunk and S.S. TETI was damaged, by air attack off Gavdo p.m. today.
Yugoslav shipping.	The Yugoslav Govt. have instructed their shipping abroad to proceed to Allied or neutral ports in the event of hostilities. At the moment, local authorities will not permit Yugoslav ships to leave the Adriatic though they are being moved to southern Adriatic ports.
Tanker and U/B sunk by ROSQUAL	S/M ROSQUAL reports having sunk the tanker LAURA CORRADO and a U-boat of the CALVI class. She left her patrol a day early, having expended all her torpedoes, and laid mines off Cape Gallo Light and Asinelli Rock Light.
Two ships torpedoed by UTMOST	C.in C. Med. reports that UTMOST at 2200/28 obtained a hit with torpedo on a 12000 ton ship and one on a 6000 ton ship in 35° 49' N. Long. uncertain.

East Indies.

Suspicious Ship.	CAPE SABLE, patrolling off Perim, reported an unidentified vessel this afternoon.
Force "Creek"	Left Madras for Singapore this evening.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Enemy Shipping.

More enemy ships have been taken into preventive custody by the Governments concerned. The Chilean Govt. has not placed under surveillance the 6 German ships in Chilean ports, and one of them has actually been given clearance papers.

MUNCHEN
HERMONTHIS
PHAKOTIS

Reports were received today that the German MUNCHEN and HERMONTHIS were intercepted yesterday by H.M.C.S. PRINCE HENRY after leaving Callao. Both set themselves on fire, and there is little hope of salvage. PRINCE HENRY was damaged whilst alongside HERMONTHIS and although seaworthy, will require dockyard repairs when the situation on the west coast of South America is clear.

The German PHAKOTIS sailed from Antofagasta this morning. The OSORNO left Talcahuano, but subsequently returned.

S.S. BEAVERDALE was torpedoed in 60° 50' N. 20° 19' W. at 0016/2. Owing to the presence of U-boat ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to part company with her convoy on passing through Long. 31° W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Vice-Admiral Sir George Lyon as C.in C. Nore.

Vice Admiral Sir George D'O Lyon, K.C.B. has this day relieved Admiral the Hon: Sir Reginald R. Plunkett-Ernle-Erle-Drax, K.C.B., D.S.O., as Commander-in-Chief, The Nore. (C.in C. Nore, 0959/S).

Faroes. Proposed Fish Trawler with concealed Oerlikon Gun.

Increasing frequency of aircraft attacks on trawlers and fish carriers around Faroes is adversely affecting supply of fish to Britain.
Attackers know that there is no fighter aircraft opposition and their tactics suggest that a genuine fish trawler with a well protected wheel house and a concealed Oerlikon gun might if properly handled decoy and destroy one or more enemy aircraft.
Urgently request such a vessel may be immediately equipped to operate under my orders. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1010/2).

Irish Sea. Proposed additional A/A Escorts for Convoys.

Increase in air threat in Irish Sea necessitates immediate strengthening of A.A. escorts for Irish Sea convoys.
Request your views whether temporary withdrawal of 29th and 82nd A/S groups from Clyde area can be accepted. It would be proposed to send ALICE to Belfast to relieve TIERCEL, COILA to relieve VIRGINIA at Liverpool, and to retain ALASTOR at Loch Ewe in place of SPEEDE. Remaining six ships of 29th and 82nd Groups with TIERCEL, VIRGINIA, and SPHENE would then be employed as additional A.A. escorts in Irish Sea. (C.in C. W.A. 1252/2).

2nd A/A Division.

Ships of 2nd A/A Division are not to sail with ocean convoys till further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 1737/2).

Escorts for shipping in Irish Sea.

Proposals by C.in C. W.A. (C.in C. W.A. 2116/2) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Dover immobilisation. Your 1126/31. Approved with the exception that FALCONET is NOT to be scuttled except as a last resort to avoid capture. Every effort should be made to sail her to a place of safety if Dover is threatened. (A.C.N.S. N. 1432/2).

Movements.

15th C.S. Is to be detached temporarily to Western Approaches Command for A/A protection of H.G. and O.G. convoys and for the defence of Loch Ewe and Oban when in harbour. (1st. S.L. 0115/2.).

DIDO. My 1963/1. Delete DIDO. (2) DIDO is to proceed as ordered by C. in C. W.A. Admiralty's 0115/2, has been passed to DIDO. (C. in C. H.F. 0910/2.). Admiralty's 0115/2 and C. in C.H.F. 0910/2. DIDO is to proceed to Loch Ewe forthwith for A/A protection of shipping in harbour and is to leave Loch Ewe as necessary to R/V with O.G.58 in 180° Oversay 4.5 miles at 1930/7.(C. in C.W.A. 2231/2 to DIDO.).

Floating Dock A.F.D.7. Intend to sail floating dock A.F.D.7 from Needles 1730 to-day for Portland towed by tugs SUPERMAN, EMPIRE HENCHMAN, and QUEENS CROSS and escorted by STAR OF INDIA, KINGSTON AGATE, and Chasseurs 41 and 11. F.O.I.C. Portland is requested to plot position of tow and show Anvil Light as required. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1123/2.). My 1123/2. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1939/2.).
1. AFD VII should not be sailed from Portland unless forcasted weather conditions show that it is likely that fighter escort will be able to fly.
2. C. in C. Plymouth and Western Approaches are requested to arrange special A/A escort to cover the passage. The dock may if necessary be held at Portland to enable such escort to be provided. (V.C.N.S. 2217/2.).

/REPULSE.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

REPULSE FURIOUS NARKUNDA	Admty. 1930/1. Request you provide inward A/S escort for REPULSE, FURIOUS and NARKUNDA which latter will probably be in company. (D.O.D. H. 1356/2 to C. in C., W.A.) Add ARGUS (D.O.D.H. 1740/3)
H.32.	You may proceed to Falmouth at your discretion. (F.O.S. 1558/2 to H.32)
QUEEN ELIZABETH	Scapa departure QUEEN ELIZABETH, INGLEFIELD ECLIPSE, ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 1701/2)
RESOLUTION	My 1813/31. Sailed escorted by KELLY, KASHMIR, KELVIN, JACKAL, ATHERSTONE, BLENCATHRA. E.T.A. Greenock 1330/4. Code word BOARD. TYNDALE sailed as additional escort until dawn 3/4, E.T.A. Plymouth 0715/3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2027/2)

Operations

Bay of Biscay Submarine Patrol H.32., H.50., L.27., O.9., O.24., TIGRIS, O.10.	Movements and Orderr. (F.O.S. 0123/2, 0128/2, 1027/2, 1028/2,) (H.50. 0815/2) (S.3. 1027/2) S.5. 1418/2)
Intentions	Submarines will probably be ordered to leave patrol as follows. L. 27 4/4. Remainder 6/4. Further signal will be made. (F.O.S. 1156/2 to S/M's Area A)
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU	Correct my 1930/1 address to read as follows. (D.O.D. H. 0803/2)

Scapa departures 1145 C. in C. H.F., in KING GEORGE V, LONDON, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MASHONA and MATABELE (A.C.O.S. 1145/2)

/East Coast...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

East Coast Patrol.

To night following a.p. positions will not be filled. A. Sheringham buoy. B. 57 C buoy to 58 buoy. (C. in C., Nore 1111/2)

My 1022/10/3 and 0920/14/3. Cancel special A/P Patrol quoted in my 1022/10/3. (C. in C., Nore, 1219/2)

A/A and A/P patrols are not proceeding till weather moderates. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1727/2)

Iceland-Faeroes Patrol.

Intend leaving patrol a.m. tomorrow for Scapa Flow. It is necessary for GALATEA and ARETHUSA to refuel before rendezvousing in Minches for S.N. eight. (C.S. 2. 1441/2)

Iceland-Clyde Ferry Service

Admiralty's 1937/19/3. and 1519/20/3 D.S. One will not now leave Clyde till p.m./4 (D.O.D. H. 1810/2)

Interception of M/V.

M.V. reported by aircraft at 1200/2 in 60° 22' N., 10° W., Course 030° 8 knots. Black Hull pink funnel with black band, 2 masts number 161 on starboard side. French ensign 2000 tons. Sail Patrol vessel to endeavour to intercept and bring in for examination. (A.C.O.S., 2154/2 to N.O.I.C., Faeroes)
My 2154/2. Interception is to be effected North of Faeroes. (A.C.O.S., 2241/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

4 Minesweepers, 7 E-Boats and Gun Emplacements attacked on 1/4.

Day 1st April. 7 Blenheims failed to locate a convoy of 8 ships reported upon and attacked the previous day off the Frisian Islands.
5 Blenheims swept the Belgian and North East Coast of France and encountered 4 minesweepers of 500/1000 tons. Two of the Blenheims bombed from a low altitude and missed by a few yards. They followed up with machine gunning and tracer was seen to enter the decks.
1 Blenheim attacked concrete gun emplacements 2/3 miles south of Lapano between Dunkirk and Ostend and bursts were seen 20/30 yards in front of the centre emplacement. Other emplacements were machine gunned and the remaining Blenheim of this sortie successfully machine gunned 7 E-Boats about 3 miles south west of Dunkirk. (H.Q.B.C., 0012/2)

Patrols

One Hudson will be carrying out cross over patrol on meridian 8° 15' W., between 47° 30' N., 49° N., from 0200/2 until 0900/2. (D.O.D. H. 0118/2)
My 0304/2. No other patrols being flown today. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1002/2)
My 1002/2. Patrol HORNLI is being flown now. (C. in C., Rosyth 1300/2)

Escorts

A/S air escort arranged today by Hudson A/C of 18 Group from 1100 to last light (C. in C., Rosyth, 0238/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

Expect A/S air escort by 18 Group aircraft of one Whitley from first light relieved by one Sunderland. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0246/2 to RESTIGOUCHE)

Expect A/S air escort throughout dalight today Wednesday by Battle Aircraft. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0254/2 to VANQUISHER, etc.)

/H. 32.....

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

H.32 and H.50. — Our aircraft will endeavour to contact H.32 at 0900 and H.50 at 1030. (P.O.S. 0819/2.).

Bombing Restrictions. — Cancel my 2337/1. (P.O.S. 1017/2 to H.Q.C.C.)

Own A/C. fired on. — Your 1233/4. We are now informed by Bomber Command that the Blenheim R.2784 was approaching Yarmouth when it was fired on by guns from Lowestoft and, as this conforms with your signal referred to, it would be appreciated if you would state the circumstances which led up to the firing on this aircraft by British defences. (Air Ministry F.O.S. 1840/2.).

Enemy Air Activity.

SAN CONRADO. (Bombed 1/4.). — My 2227/1. SAN CONRADO reported badly on fire N.W. of Smalls when last seen. Tug and Trawler not in company. A/S Trawler YORK CITY sailed 2340/1, to resume search. All crew of Tanker landed here. (P.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0316/2.).
My 2227/1 and 0316/2. SAN CONRADO was again bombed whilst in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER at 1920/1 and set on fire. Tow had to be cut. This vessel and HILDEFJORD were reported: by YORK CITY as burning fiercely at 0515/2. (P.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1005/2.).

UMBERLEIGH. — (British, 4950 Tons) Bombed in 54° 59' N., 1° 11' W. (Cullercoats Radio 0734/2.).

ANTICOSTI. — (British, 1925 Tons). Bombed No. 3. buoy, 0930/2. (Humber Radio 0935/2.).
Ex F.N.48. Master reports bombed off H.3. Buoy at 1040 this morning. No damage reported. (P.O. Humber 1548/2.).

/QUORN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

QUORN
(Attacked 1/4)

My 1235/1. 2 delayed action heavy bombs exploded underwater distance 20 yards on port quarter.
Following minor damage sustained.
No other damage yet apparent.
(QUORN 0945/2)

Attack off Thorshavn on 1/4.

My 2210/1. Trawler bombed and machine gunned. 4 fishing trawlers machine gunned. Damage negligible. (N.O.I.C., Faroes 0955/2)

Jan Mayen A/C wreckage.

Metal wreckage of one or two German planes has been found on beach North of North lagoon Jan Mayen Island.
(N.O.I.C., Iceland 0957/2)

ADELLEN
(Bombed 1/4)

Fire in ADELLEN has been put out, and vessel is being brought into harbour.
(N.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1005/2)

Convoy F.S. Odd

One aeroplane unknown. My position 53° 35' N., 0° 57' E. (VORTEGERN 1040/2)
Fighter assistance requested for Convoy Position 53° 27' N., 0° 57' E. (VORTEGERN 1214/2)
My 1214/1 JU 88 2 bombs heard dropped well astern. Damage unknown. (VORTEGERN, 1237/2)

Seven Skua A/C damaged on 1/4.

Seven Skuas of 801 Squadron damaged by enemy action p.m. 1st at R.A.F. Station St. Eval. One of these requires salvage and remaining six are extensively damaged by blast and falling debris.
801 Squadron now has two operationally serviceable aircraft at St. Eval and it is expected that a further two will be available p.m. today. (St. Merryn 1225/2)
Your 1225/2. Report by signal.
(a) Cause of damage
(b) Whether aircraft were dispersed.
(5th S.L. 2020/2)
Your 2020/2.
(a) One 500 lb H.E.
(b) Yes. (ST. Merryn 2210/2)

/2 A/C.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

2 Aircraft crashed on S.W. Irish Coast.	It is reported from a reliable Irish source that 2 German planes crashed on the S.W. Irish Coast yesterday evening. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1253/2)
Thrumster A.M.E.Station bombed.	My 1240/30/3. A.M.E.S. at Thrumster was again attacked by single JU 88 at 0750 today. Two U.X.B' dropped but no damage or casualties. (A.C.O.S., 1304/2)
LORNA DOONE	(Paddle Minesweeper) My 1302/2. LORNA DOONE was in action with 3 Junkers at 1032 who attacked with bombs and machine gun fire. Bombs near missed appar ntly no damage. Cannon shell caused minor damage and 2 wounded. (N.O.I.C., Lowestoft 1305/2)
SWORD DANCE (Bombed 1/4)	My 2200/1. After examination of damage repairs include the following. Provisional date of completion 30/4. (F.O.Humber 1547/2)
SAMBRE	(Belgian, 683 tons) Returned to Humber having lost both anchors and damaged propeller. Master reports being bombed and machine gunned while anchored off Humber Light Vessel at 0800/1 and 1600/1. No damage to ship and no casualties. (F.O.Humber 1548/2)
M/S Trawler off Portland.	M/S Trawler attacked by 1 Heinkel 111 in position 293° Portland Bill 10 miles at 1220 today. 8 bombs dropped, no damage no casualties. Enemy driven off by Spitfire. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1650/2)
CRAMOND ISLAND	H.M.T. CRAMOND ISLAND sunk by enemy aircraft 120° five miles St. Abbs Head at about 1400. (N.O.I.C., Leith 1716/2)

/FERMAIN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity -Contd.

FERMAIN	(British, 759 tons) Bombed and sunk about 3 miles 325° 62 buoy in 12 fathoms. Dangerous to navigation. (F.O.Humber 1747/2)
Unknown Vessel	Automatic AAAA heard at 1946 strength 2 bearing from GFK 190° approx. (Port Patrick Radio 1947/2) (Lands End 1951/2) (Seaforth 2143/2)
Possible Air Operations from Bordeaux.	There are indications that long range German aircraft may be operating from Bordeaux during the night. (D.D.I.C. 2102/2)
RESOLUTION	There are reasons to expect exceptional enemy air activity during your passage. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2123/2 to RESOLUTION)

War Diary. 2.1.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.6. SCOTT.	Your 1431/31. No A/A escort is available. If SCOTT has not enough armament to meet attack of single enemy aircraft, request you will initiate steps to improve her equipment. (C. in C. H.F. 0307/2 to R.A.M.L. Departure SCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0933/2 to R.A.M.L. I am not satisfied that SUFFOLK is adequately worked up. C.C. has been instructed to inform F.O.C. 2nd. C.S. and you of progress in next few days. If considered advisable, NORFOLK should reinforce SUFFOLK as cover for operation S.N.6. (ii) Decision as to whether SUFFOLK is to relieve NORFOLK in Denmark Strait is to be made by you. (C. in C. H.F. 1080/2. to F.O.C. 1st. C.S.).
Operation B.3.53.	Sailing postponed 24 hours on account of weather. All times in my 0915/1 to be 24 hours later accordingly. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0947/2.).
Z.M.E. 27.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1530 today for Z.M.E.27 to lay at midnight returning on completion about 0845 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1082/2.).
Thames Estuary.	One S.A. Mine detonated as follows, at 0535/2. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1153/2.).
Moray Firth Sweep.	My 1117/30/3 and 1655/1/4. Operations cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1255/2 to ALBURY.).
Dundee Area.	L.L. drifter GLOW detonated mines today in exact position of M 3 loop 68 controlled minefield. Explosion was a double one, and it seems probable two mines detonated. Subsequent test of M 3 circuit and loop shows they are completely out of action. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1729/2.).

/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.4.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Humber Area. Explosions. Spontaneous explosions occurred at 0030 and 0425 today. Position unknown. (F.O. Humber 1759/2.).

Brest Proposed Minelaying. Suggest moored contact mines adapted for laying from aircraft with parachutes should be laid in Goulet at Brest where defensive minefields exist vide C.B. 1804 plan 21. They will be mistaken for ground mines and normal sweeping is improbable in defensively mined area. Reconnaissance may show where normal sweeping begins and ends. A double-edged weapon. The answer, controlled ground mines in swept channel through controlled fields. (C.S.I. 1832/2.).

Winterton. Parachute mine D.M. MK IV (Roman figures) at Winterton rendered safe and recovered. (H.M.S.O. Yarmouth 1923/2.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

Visual reconnaissance at 0830/2 found SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1010/2)

Baltic.

Ice Report. (Stockholm 1643/2)

Technical

Request for 3 C.H.L. Equipment & Personnel for M/V's

An urgent requirement has arisen for fitting R.D.F. into merchant ships equipped with fighter catapult aircraft
It would be appreciated if three C.H.L. equipments could be released at a very early date for fitting in three merchant ships.
technical assistance provided to signal School, Portsmouth, in the work of installing gear, and (a) a certain number of personnel to operate the equipment afloat.
If the above can be released request you will say when the equipment will be ready for delivery.
(D.S.D. 1939/2 to Air Ministry)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Convoys in Irish Sea.	Convoys are not to be permitted to proceed past the Smalls until further orders. Requested C. in C., W.A. will forward proposals for (a) Provision of adequate escort. (b) A programme showing times at which it is intended convoys should pass the more dangerous areas. (V.C.N.S., 1208/2 to C. in C., W.A.) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 2116/2) See Lion Copy only. (Policy)

Military Convoys

GLENARTNEY	Intend sailing GLENARTNEY escorted by ASSINIBOINE 1700/4 R.V. with CORMORIN and BOREAS at 0800/5 in position 270° Oversay 6 miles speed 13½ knots thence in accordance with Admty. 1728/31. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool 1154/2 to Admty. etc)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DENEB — (Dutch, 199 tons) Salvage now safely completed. Drydocked Middlesbrough. (Smith, W. Hartlepool 1015/2)

GOLDEN WEST — (N.C.S. Steam Drifter) In collision with MONA'S ISLE at 1700/1. No damage to MONA'S ISLE. GOLDEN WEST suffered damage to rails, deck structure, and boom.

SANVIKHORN — (N.C.S.M/P drifter) Broke Mizzen mast under counter of S/S GEDDINGTON COURT at 1230/1. SANVIKHORN is immobilised owing to rope winding round propellor at same time. Vessel will need to be beached. (N.O.I.C., Methil 1100/2)

SHERWOOD — My 1013/2. SHERWOOD returned Plymouth 1535. D.G. Coil burnt out. (C. in C., Plymouth 1857/2)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DENNA
Italian.

Arrived 1/4, from Genoa.
(Barcelona, 0010/2.)

FIJI
to join
Force H.

My 1930/1. FIJI is not to return to U.K. but is to proceed to Gibraltar and join Force H. temporarily on their return from operation WINCH.
FIJI will be detached from time to time for escort duties.
(1st S.L. 0112/2 to C.in C. H.F.)

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU.

My 1930/1 (disposition of forces to intercept SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU should they leave Brest), is being passed to you for information.
(H.W.R. 0122/2 (At request of O.D.) to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

O.24.

Adjust speed to pass through position 350° Cape Spartel 10 at 0700 B.S.T./2.
Following ships are on patrol ERIN between Tarifa and Tangier, LORD HOTHAM in Gibraltar Bay.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0138/2 to O.24).
Neth. S/M O.24 proceeding Gibraltar (route). Expected in position (Cape?) Spartel 10 at 0700/2. (F.O.C.N.A. 0150/2 Arrival O.24. to ENCHANTRESS).
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1030/2).

Operation
WINCH.

Gibraltar Departure RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, FEARLESS, FORTUNE, FURY for "Winch".2.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 0246/2).

MAGALLANES
intercepted.

Your 2130Z/1. Take off as many male Germans of military age in accordance with standing instructions that you can fit in. Passport Control Officer New York has approved passage of 239 New York passengers including 181 Germans.
Helen Zimmerman believed carrying official documents. Ship is not be to diverted.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0875/2 to MALVERNIAN).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic- Contd.

MAGALLANES intercepted	CAVINA is to close MALVERNIAN in position to be indicated by MALVERNIAN and embark German prisoners ex SS MAGALLANES before proceeding in accordance with F.O.C.N.P's 1430/31/3. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1016/2 to CAVINA, MALVERNIAN) Commendatore Constantino of Italian Ministry of Exchange and Finance, passenger in MAGALLANES has bag of important despatches for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome also secret packet for Lisbon. If still in touch with ship remove both despatches and packet if found. Unless this man claims diplomatic immunity remove him as an enemy agent. (D.E.W.D. 1851/2 to MALVERNIAN) Your 0815/2 after investigating ship released 1100 G.M.T. 042° 45' N., 027° 14°W Your 1016/2 cancelled. Your 1851/2 persons bags and packet still in MAGALLANES. Report on arrival N.P.N. 267. 1200/5.(MALVERNIAN 1930/2/2 to Admty). Admty. 0815/2. Your 1930/2. Report how many Germans you have taken off MAGALLANES. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2332/2 to MALVERNIAN) Your 2332/2. Nil.(MALVERNIAN 2330/2 to Admty)
CAPO ALGA BURAN	Teneriffe reports Italian SS CAPO ALGA and tanker BURANO sailed from there 2100/1. (Description). (F.O.C.N.A. 1010/2 to N.A. Station).
OTUS OLYMPUS	To be kept available for special service at short notice. (1st S.L. 1054/2 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1054/2. OTUS at immediate notice from 2000/2 subject to limitations given in my 1704/27. OLYMPUS arrives Gibraltar p.m/2 after 20 days at sea, state unknown. O.21 is now at immediate notice and sails with H.G. 58 p.m/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510Z/2 to Admty.)

/NIGERIA.....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

NIGERIA. To R/V with Convoy H.G.57 on 3/4 to provide ocean escort to U.K.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1260/2 to ROCHESTER etc.)

UNDAUNTED. My 1203/1 UNDAUNTED will proceed on the surface after passing through position D, entering North Atlantic Station at 0600/10 and shifting W/T Watch at that time. Amend E.T.A. at position G keeping within position 350° Cape Spartel 10 miles to read 24 hours earlier.
(Capt: S.5. 1414/2 to Admty etc.)

CAIRNDALE. Your 1751/24 and your 0007/29. Request how long it is intended to retain CAIRNDALE at "Pedestal" or whether relief for her is being sent to Gibraltar; Naval bulk Stocks of petrol available at Gibraltar. (details)
(F.O.C.N.A. 1628/2 to Admty).

VELOX
WRESTLER. My 1212/28. VELOX and WRESTLER will be sailed for Freetown about 12/4 provided that DUNCAN and FOXHOUND have arrived back at Gibraltar by that date and that VIDETTE and WISHART can arrive at Gibraltar by 19/4.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1634/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

PANDORA. Ref: 1900/20 from Admty. Request you will pass following to BIRMINGHAM. PANDORA is in close company with CAIRNDALE with object of sinking any raider which attacks her. W/T watch for PANDORA in accordance with 120 A.Z. of 1635/17/2. Request you will keep PANDORA informed of proposed fuelling arrangements of BIRMINGHAM.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

MARSDALE. Your 1730/2. (H.T. in W.R.) Remain on U.S. patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2148/2 to MARSDALE).

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BABITONGA
FRIESLAND.

Pernambuco reports no change in situation of Italian ships.
German BABITONGA at Santos has now received permission to sail.
Italian ships in River Plate show no signs of activity.
German FRIESLAND at Paita (Peru) is reported on fire.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0146Z/2 to S.O.(I) Freetown).
Consider capture of BABITONGA who may be a supply ship and who now has permissid to sail, is most important.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1120Z/2 to ASTURIAS).

LECH.
BABITONGA.

LECH probably sailing tonight, expect BABITONGA fugitive likewise from Santos.
LECH short of oil, BABITONGA has 1000 tons in barrels, they have probably arranged a rendezvous. N.S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C.in C. Africa.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1815/2 to Admty).

CONTE
GRANDE
BABITONGA.

Santos reports (A.3.) Italian CONTE GRANDE and German BABITONGA may sail shortly. They show no indication other than CONTE GRANDE seen to be provisioning life boats.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2103Z/2 to Admty).

CUMBERLAND.

Wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Montevideo 1300Z/2 and expects to leave on patrol 1300Z/3.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1330Z/2 to Admty).

MARATHON
(overdue
19/3).

Master of British ship GLENOGLE passed and inspected on 16/3 two empty life boats recently vacated and abandoned in 020.44'N., 024.51'W. marked MARATHON, Piraeus.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1427B/2 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORMONDE. — My 1245/31. To avoid delay 250 service personnel should be disembarked from ORMONDE and vessel sailed forthwith independently for Freetown and U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1721/2 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

WALRUS for ILLUSTRIOUS. — Your 1133/15. Walrus now embarked is to be disembarked at Simonstown. NoWalrus is available for your onward passage. (D.N.A.D. 1559/2 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

CAIRNDALE. — PANDORA is in close company with CAIRNDALE with object of sinking any raider which attacks her. Request CAIRNDALE be instructed to be at eastern end of patrol line 0800N/11. (C.in C. S.A. 2145N/2 to PANDORA, BIRMINGHAM).

BIRMINGHAM C.HUYGENS. — My 1905/1 BIRMINGHAM sailed from Freetown with CHRISTIAN HUYGENS 1700/2 to join S.L.70 and escort to position (V) 053° 20'N., 020° 00'W. Request Admty will issue onward routeing instructions. BIRMINGHAM instructed to fuel Pedestal 11/4 unless other orders are received. (C.in C. S.A. 2155N/2.)

Raider which sunk BRITANNIA. — Your 1606/30 and my 1631/30 Capt: Paton R.N. survivor from BRITANNIA does not consider raider was SANTA CRUZ 1. Reasons. (C.in C. S.A. 2339/2 to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Croats and action in Adriatic.

Following is correction of my 2209/1. C.in C. Med. repeated D.N.I. from N.A. Athens. Following telegram from ZACREB has been handed to me by S.of S. for Foreign Affairs. "Emphasieed to me by persons who count that Croatian spirit and resistance would be much strengthened by British Naval action in Adriatic. Absence of such action or promises thereof had some influence on deciding Croats to vote for pact. Failure to stop coastal traffic with Albania has also affected public opinion on coast very unfavourably". Meeting with Yugo Slav representative shortly. Can I announce at meeting "British Submarines and Fleet Aircraft have been operating lately in Adriatic and sank at least six ships in ten days. Operations are to be intensified. Suggest? Allied would (corrupt group) take Durazzo and provide adequate air strength British Naval Forces would make more use of Adriatic".
(Brit. Resident, Athens, 0843/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Egypt
A.R.P.

Chiefs of Staff for C. in C. Med., and M.E. No.72:- "In view of opinions expressed in Cairo telegrams Nos. 228 and 306 to F.O. do you still consider threat of air bombardment on Egyptian cities is sufficiently serious to justify. (a) Egyption A.R.P. work being regarded as assential defence work in interests of British Forces, and if so (b) financial assistance from H.M.G. if Egyption Gov., cannot be induced to pay".
(1st S.L. 1055/2 to C.in C. Med.)

EXMOUTH.

X.807 dated 8/3 and X.232 dated 11/3 American Red Cross ship EXMOUTH will not leave Marseilles on return voyage until 12/4 or shortly thereafter.
(Air Min. 1100/2 to A.O.C.in C. M.E.)

TETRARCH.
area X.

Ref: memo. of S.O. 9 para.7., and 8 to

/TETRARCH.

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TETRARCH area X. (Contd.)	TETRATCH only, and my 2015/31 not to TETRARCH. Cancel all reference area M. You are to remain in area X until further directions. (Capt: S.1. 1145/2 to TETRARCH).
U/B's as fishing ships.	Possibility enemy submarines are disguising themselves as fishing ships. DERNA reports shot fired well astern suspect fishing ship caused sail to be furled and ship then disappeared. (Capt: S.1. 1151/2 to TETRARCH).
Torpedoing of YORK.	My 0901/1. Add to para.(?two) "Noise of engines (?heard) about half a minute before the explosion. Generally mistake for aircraft." (YORK, 1201/2).
Title of Battle on 28/3.	Recent engagement with Italian forces is to be refrred to as "Battle of the Ionian Sea". (C.in C. Med., 1213/2 to Med. Station).
UPHOLDER.	Leaving Malta p.m./3 to operate in area J 035° 10' 011° 10' - 000° 40 - 40 with alternative area 0 035° 00' (?) 012° 10' - 000° - 40 - 40. (Cdr. S.1. 1221/2 to Capt: S.1.)
LAURA CORRADO and U/Boat sunk by RORQUAL Two M/V's torpedoed by UTMOST.	Your 0159/2. Following is repetition RORQUAL 2330/31 addressed Capt: (S) 1. (begins). Your 2329/29 have left patrol one day early all torpedoes expended. Have sunk tanker LAURA CORRADO and one (? CALVI) class U/Boat. Mines have been laid as follows: E.T.A. Malta, 0700 B/4. (Capt: S.1. 1246/2 to Admty). RORQUAL's 2330/31. It is requested no mention be made of RORQUAL in connection with these sinkings in case existance of minefield may be suspected. (C.in C. Med., 1338/2 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Following submarine actions reported:-
(a) RORQUAL sunk Tanker LAURA CORRADO and one CALVI class U/Boat, no details yet known.

(b) UTMOST attacked southbound convoy of six laden escorted vessels in 35° 40N, longitude uncertain at 2200/28 firing four torpedoes two hits one on a 1200 ton ship and one on a 6000 ton ship.

2. Preferable no announcement be made as regards (b) for one week nor should name of submarine be mentioned. As regards (a) see my 1338/2.
(C.in C. Med., 2008/2).

RORQUAL
REGENT
UPHOLDER.

RORQUAL proceed through 036° 35' 012° 00' and 180° Filfola Is. five miles to arrive 0700 B/4. REGENT through 015° 25' 014° 14' and 035° 31' 014° 14' to arrive 0700B/5. UPHOLDER leaves Malta about 2000B/3 through 035° 37' 014° 06' and 035° 20' 012° 40' A/S trawler will be on patrol until 0800/5.
(Cdr. S.1. 1303/2 to RORQUAL, REGENT).

Yugoslav shipping.

Yugoslav Govt. have given instructions to their shipping abroad that in event of hostilities ships are to proceed immediately to Allied or Neutral ports. (2) At the moment local authorities will not permit Yugo Slav ships leave Adriatic. However all ships are being moved to southern Adriatic ports and in event of necessity I see no reason why they should ?not go out, especially if their departure could be arranged to coincide with a demonstration by British Forces. Informed by General Staff traffic through Bar to Albania has been (? suspended).
(N.A.Belgrade, 1305/2 to Admty).

Prisoners held by Greeks.

Re disposal (W.O. 1320/2 to C.in C. M.E.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Hospital Ship.	Op. Summ. 296 up to 1200 hrs. 2/4/41 in 3 parts. 1/4 Sunderland recco. reported Italian Hospital Ship posn. 35° 48' N., 21° 12' E. (H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E. 1433/2)
Enemy Units.	Susak reports following left Fiume p.m. /31. (1) Floating dock in tow (of) 3 torpedo boats (2) 2 submarines one of which towed by tog (3) One destroyer as escort to submarine. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1527/2 to Admty etc.
Battle of Cape Matapan.	Amendment to C.in C. Med., 1700/30. (C.in C. Med., 1604/2) See 30/3.
Capacity of Tripoli and Benghazi.	I/53346 cipher 1/4. 03974. My I/49309 of 15/3. From more accurate date now available find our estimates capacity Benghazi Harbour before our occupation were 65 per cent in excess of actual tonnage unloaded at that port. We still consider average capacity Tripoli Port can be safely assessed at 2,500 tons a day. (C.in C. M.E. 1700/2), (to W.O.)
Malta Air Report.	Combined Service report Malta up to 1600 hours 2/4. Afternoon fighter sweep round Malta by 16 M.E.109'S and C.R. 42's at 18000 feet 5 miles out. Did not cross coast. 14 Hurricanes up but no engagements. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1950/2).
Italian MARIANNINA.	Consul Barcelona reports left 2/4 for Genoa. (F.O.C.N.A. 2306/2 to S.O.Force H).
Attack on YORK at Suda Bay.	My 1340/29. It was first assumed attack was made by human torpedoes. Request report called for may be modified to meet different circumstances shewn by S.B.N.O. Suda Bay's 1855/27, and that it may include state of weather at the time. Request also your remarks on immediate measures and long term policy to meet this threat. (V.C.N.S. 2005/2 to C.in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Italian ships at Diego Suarez.	Crews reported assaulted by Greek crews and by crew of French NIVOSE. Italians now confined to their ships. (D.S. 575).
W.S.6. GLASGOW DORSETSHIRE CORNWALL.	N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0843/28. (i) LLANDAFF CASTLE and CITY OF ATHENS are to be detached from W.S.6. at dark 8th ships to proceed to Mombasa. CITY OF ATHENS will subsequently proceed from Mombasa to Aden unescorted. N.O.I.C. Durban 1011/31. SCYTHIA and DERGENSFJORD are to be detached from convoy in the vicinity of Cape Guardafui to proceed to Aden to replenish. These 2 ships will subsequently rejoin convoy as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. TALAMBA escorted by GLASGOW from Seychelles is to R/V with W.S.6. on 10/4 TALAMBA will continue with convoy to Suez. GLASGOW is to escort convoy to Guardafui Strait and then proceed to Mombasa at 18 knots. (iv) GLASGOW joining escort. DORSETSHIRE is to be detached to Mombasa to complete with fuel and is then to proceed to Simonstown so as to arrive 18/4 in readiness to escort W.S.7. (v) Present intention is for CORNWALL to escort W.S.6. to Suez. (0556Z/2).
Italian Destroyer Sunk. (LEONE).	My 1722/1 para.4. (1) Cause of sinking unknown. Destroyer appeared to have been recently abandoned and may have scuttled. (2) Probably same destroyer as that reported under weigh by Swordfish at 0913/1. (C.in C. E.I. 0730/2.) (See also 1736/2). W.D. Note:- This destroyer was LEONE, see 2340/4.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.6. DORSETSHIRE.	Your 1230/30. Proposed action is to detach DORSETSHIRE from W.S.6. Escort at dusk/4 in about 021° S. If this is decided upon, Force T would give W.S.6. cover to the eastward on 8/4 and 9/4. (C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/2 to Admty).
GLASGOW W.S.6.	To leave Mombasa 4/4 for Port Victoria Seychelles to arrive A.M./7. GLASGOW will be required to leave Seychelles p.m./7 escorting TALAMBA to R/V with W.S.6. (C.in C. E.I. 0750Z/2 to GLASGOW).
Message to Duke D'Acosta.	O/53348 April 1st begins. My O/53273 (0940/1) (Message to Duke D'Aosta warning against scuttling of shipping in Massawa) Shortage of shipping should not repeat not be mentioned to Aosta. (M.E.T.H.I. 1308/2 to Advance Force Nairobi).
Suspicious Ship.	Following has been read. One unidentified vessel bearing 040° distance 2 miles course 130° position 267 P.R.M.6. (CAPE SABILE, 1635Z/2). N.B. CAPE SABLE patrolling off Perim.
Italian destroyers.	My1722/1. Para.one. photographs show that three not two Italian destroyers had left. Two of these have not been seen since. One has probably sunk, see my 0730/2. (2) At 1230Z/2 the remaining five Italian destroyers were under way 8 miles east of Jasyawa in groups of two and three. ((C.in C. E.I. 1736Z/2 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Minefields.

Full details of British Mine Fields are deposited with British Consul, General, Batavia, and full details of Dutch Mine fields with Dutch Consul General, Singapore. Suggest you arrange for similar interchange of information which would include Searched Channel. (C.in C. China, 0332Z/2 to A.C.N.B.)

Indo China Exports.

Saigon telegram 61 to F.O. Supplying of Gunny bags for export of rice to unoccupied France is directly contrary to article 11 of agreement and Indo China has already asked for relaxation of this effect. (My 0957/18 to Admty and Hong Kong only refers). Suggest if any relaxation is now contemplated it should depend on drastic reduction in allocation of rubber exports to unoccupied France (See para. 4 my 1047/24. (C.in C. China, 0459Z/2 to Admty).

M.T.B.26 damaged.

M.T.B.26 damaged by collision with THANET during night exercises 1/4. Injury to Lieut. Comm. Boldero reported by P.M.O. Hong Kong 1700/1 occurred in this collision.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 0503Z/2 to Admty).

Indo-China Trade.

Your 0229/29. 3 Norwegian ships named are engaged in Indian trade where they have released tonnage suitable for worldwide trading.
Not possible to state when they can again be made available for Indo-China Trade.
(D.T.D. 1212/2 to C.in C. China).

CONTE VERDE. (Italian).

Reported by Press to have left Shanghai on 1/4 escorted by Japanese warships. (D.S.575 3/4).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. In view of presence of U/Boat in approx. 61° N., 30° W. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to part company with Convoy on passing thro Long. 31° W.
(D.O.D.(H) 0146/2 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Enemy ships seized. Further reports of ships being seized have been received. (D.S.575 2/4).
At Port Everglades, Florida.
ARAUCA, 4400. PAULINE FRIEDERICH (T) 4733 - Machinery badly damaged. (German).
At Tampico, Mexico. ORINOCO 9660. (Germa
Italian.
AMERICANO (T) 7008, ATLAS (T) 2005, FEDE (T) 7884, GENOANO (T) 6067 LUCIFERO (T) 4000, MARINA O 5480, STELVIO (T) 6963, TUSCANIA (T) 6904, VIGOR (T) 6511.
At Vera Cruz, Mexico. (German) HAMELN, 4174. (Italian) GIORGIO FASSIO (T)6735.
At Puerto Cabello, Venezuela.
(Italian) BACICIN PADRE (T) 5591.

RECCA ships at Tampico and Vera Couz. Italian ship RECCA at Havana and enemy ships Tampico and ?Vera Couz taken in preventive custody by Governments concerned.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 0834/2 to C.in C. A.E.I
See also 1501/2.

German OSORNO. Sailed from Talcabuano 0520/Z/2.
(C.in C.AWI. 0943/2 to PRINCE HENRY).

ALABAMA DENTICE DURAZZO. Italian shipsALABAMA, DENTICE, German ship DURAZZO in custody.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0958/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MUNCHEN HERMONTHIS intercepted by PRINCE HENRY. German ships MUNCHEN and HERMONTHIS left Callao at 0005 G.M.T. and were intercepted by PRINCE HENRY at 1200 G.M.T. and 1800 G.M.T. respectively. MUNCHEN in 11° 18'S., 79° 09' W. HERMONTHIS in 12° 13'S., 80° 10'W. Both ships on fire. Reports indicate little hope of saving either. Crew of HERMONTHIS are on board PRINCE HENRY. Crew of MUNCHEN last seen in lifeboats making for coast. BISHOPDALE sent to intercept.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/2 to Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Admty. 1219/1. Both ships intercepted and on fire.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1002/2 to C.in C. China).

U/S Destroyers. Following information urgently required.
(D.T.S.D. 1113/2 to N.A.Washington).

CAMBRIA, Cable ship. My 1112/2. Cable ship CAMBRIA is to be supplied on arrival with S.P. 02272 (12) and (13) and is to be sailed for area between positions 007° 00'N., 028° 00'W. and 002° 00'N., 029° 50'W. anchor work on cables as desired by CAMBRIA.
After consulting with Master report position in which work will commence and of arrival there.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1122/2 to N.C.I.C. Trinidad).

BRITISH STRENGTH SIMNIA POLYKARP. Ministry of shipping 1608/7. British ships BRITISH STRENGTH, SIMNIA, Norwegian POLYKARP not arrived.
(S.O.(I)Jamaica 1148/2 to Admty).

DIOMEDE. My 1252/1. Your departure is to be postponed until completion of practices A.M./4. Return to Bermuda A.M./12.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1152/2 to DIOMEDE.)

SILVERFIR MANCHAI. Your 1222/7/3 and 1014/10/3 SILVERFIR and Dutch MANCHAI havemt arrived this side.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1212/2 to Min. of Shipping.)

RHAKOTIS (German). Sailed from Antofagasta Chile a.m./2.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1243/2 to Admty etc.)

ATLAS. My 0834/2 ATLAS now reported Sea Cocks opened sunk in shallow water.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1501/2).
(ATLAS was at Tampico D.S.575).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 2.4.1941. WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

RESOLUTION. My 1610/24. Your final destination is Philadelphia.
(D.O.D.(H) 1537/2 to RESOLUTION).

SOUTHGATE "R" report 16/3. Your 1702/1/4. Master states cruiser type of vessel closed to distance of two miles and signalled him to shew signal letters. Shortly afterwards war vessel signalled "British warship proceed" but made no attempt to challenge in accordance with Admty 2005/25/12. Shortly afterwards and while war vessel was still in sight an eastward convoy escorted by a capital ship passed, so Master assumed war vessel was friendly and accordingly broadcast the all clear in code.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 1705/2 to Admty).
Your 1702/1 SOUTHGATE sighted and reported H.M.S. LACONIA.
(F.O.C.S. B.S. 1805/2 to Admty).

LECH BABITONGA. (German) LECH probably sailing tonight expect BABITONGA to do likewise from Santos. LECH short of oil BABITONGA has 1000 tons in barrels, they have peobably arranged a R/V S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C.in C. S.A.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1815/2).

Enemy ships in Chilean Ports. Your 1353/2. There are 6 German ships in Chilean Ports. No Italians. Chilean Govt. has not followed U.S. lead in placing them under surveillance and one has actually been given clearance papers but has not yet sailed. German Ambassador has given assurance vessels will not be fired in Chilean Ports. Ambassador has pointed out to Chilean Min. F.A. value of this assurance in view of happenings in Costa Rica where similar assurance was given. Endeavouring by all means at our disposal to delay sailing of German ships. C.in C. A.W.I. informed of situation.
(N.A. Santiago de Chile 1815/2 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

F.A.A. in Crete Action.

Your 1519/1. As far as in known in Admty. normal type torpedo attack tactics were employed.
(D.N.A.D. 1858/2 to N.A.Washington).

KOSS vessels sailed.

Your 1405/24. KOSS 5, 4, 16 and 17 sailed from St. Johns 2215 G.M.T. today Weather permitting Greenock a.m./12 E.T.A
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 1912/2 to C.O.A.S. Halifax).

CANTON.

Regret not possible to divert CANTON's refit from U.S.A. to U.K.
Officers and ratings on passage will have to be landed Halifax and passengers arranged to U.K. at first opportunity.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1930/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Troop Transport. Requirements for Middle East are as follows. Mid May 11,900 Mid June, 14,000 latter includes 5,600 from New Zealand.
(Navy Off. Melbourne, 1125Z/2 to D. of S.T.)

ALEXANDRE ANDRE. Your 0426/31. and your 0655/31.
(Reply re crew trouble).
(D.S.T. 2358/2 to D.N.O. Queensland).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ALMKERK (torpedoed 16/3).

Dutch ALMKERK, 6810 tons, now known to have been torpedoed and sunk on 16/3. Was bound independently from Fremantle for Avonmouth with wheat. 31 of crew landed at Liverpool, 32 of passengers and crew landed at Freetown, and 3 passengers at Konakry, French Guinea. (D.S. 575/3/4).

ALDERGROVE.

Following has been read. SSSS 050 N., 12.01 W. X331 (Parts of signal missed). ELBA torpedoed. (Freetown 0055Z/2).
British ALDERGROVE, 1974 tons, from Huelva for Ardrossan with iron ore in H.G.57 reported to have been torpedoed at 0155/2. Position doubtful but may have been 50° N., 12.01 W.
(D.S.575, 3/4).

CLAN OGILVY
BENWYVIS (torpedoed 21/3).

24 Survivors picked up by Spanish CABO VILLANO in position 011° N., 023° 50'W. at 2131/1. Two more boats with 60 survivors in the vicinity not found. All ships requested to keep a good look out.
(C.in C. S.A. 1108/2 to G.B.M.S. 6A, 9 S.O.(I) Freetown, 1137N/2, N.A.Madrid 1745/2).

BEAVERDALE.

British 9957 tons. S.S. BEAVERDALE torpedoed in position 60° 50 N., 29° 19 W. at 0016/2. Request you send trawler if available to search for survivors also tug THAMES if she can be released.
(A.C.O.S. 1156/2 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)
Your 1156/2 WHITETHORN proceeding forthwith. Tug THAMES as soon as possible.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1337/2 to A.C.O.S.)
Your 1156/2. WHITETHORN has been recalled owing to engine defect, am sending ELM.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1918/2 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

REYKJABORG. (torpedoed about 11/3).

Your 1244/19. Request survivors of REYKJABORG may be questioned regarding possibility of enemy having obtained identification certificate.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1925/2 to Admty).

BRITISH RELIANCE.

British 7000 tons, in convoy S.C.26. Following received from Resolution Island. "2339 G.M.T. SSSS 58.21N(?) 8.09W. BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed". bearing 86 approx. Uncalibrated (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2215/2 to Admty).
58 21 W., 28 09W. BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed.
(C.in C. W.A. 2357/2 to Admty).

ALDERPOOL.

British 4313 tons. Following received from Resolution Island. (Begins) 0048 G.M.T. "SSSS 58.21 N., 27.59 W. ALDERPOOL torpedoed 0045 G.M.T." Bearing 86 approx. Uncalibrated (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2219/2 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

My 2321/1. Further information indicates that bearings refer to U/Boats between Dakar and Cape Verde Island.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0245/2 to N.A.Station).

2012.

D/F intercept at 2012/2 indicates that convoy S.C.26 has been reported by a German U/Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 2055/2 to WORCESTERSHIRE).
D/F intercept at 2012/2 indicates that you may possibly have been reported by a German U/Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 2131/2 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1352/2 F.O.S. 1454/2 to S/Ms).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat attack on S.C.26. WORCESTERSHIRE and 9 ships torpedoed.

Convoy S.C.26 was attacked shortly after midnight about 650 miles W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland and was scattered. The following ships were torpedoed:- Tanker BRITISH RELIANCE, S.S. ALDERPOOL, S.S. THIRLBY. A.M.C. WORCESTERSHIRE, escorting the convoy was torpedoed at 0444.
S.S. HELLE and WELCOMBE were torpedoed this evening in approx. 59° N. 24° 30' W. and subsequently sank. Survivors have also been picked up from tanker BRITISH VISCOUNT, S.S. LEONIDAS Z. CAMBANIS, WESTPOOL and INDIER.
Convoy O.B. 304 has been diverted and ordered to disperse in 25° W.

Blyth was closed at 0655 on account of the weather.

Battle cruisers and E.boats at Brest.

Visual R/C, today showed the enemy battle cruisers and 6 E.boats at Brest. All escorts and patrols were ordered by C.in C. Plymouth to be warned to expect E.Boat attacks on shipping when the weather is suitable.

MOST SECRET.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

Ent Plots.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

One Hampden of Bomber Command attacked one of the battle cruisers in Brest today. The air R/C and patrols which are carried out to confirm the presence of the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in Brest or to detect their departure are described in C.in C. Plymouth, 1925/5.

Enemy Air Activity.

There were constant attacks on shipping throughout today.

Plane shot down by LOCUST.	S.S. FILLEIGH was machine gunned off Nattray Head at 0756. RESOLUTION and escort were attacked at 1703 in 50° 52' N. 4° 54' W. LOCUST and Convoy F.S.51 were attacked at 0947 in the Thames Approaches and report no damage to ships, two planes hit, one seen to crash later.
S.S. GEDDINGTON COURT damaged.	S.S. GEDDINGTON COURT in Convoy E.N.94 was attacked off Methil and returned to Methil with U.X.B. on board and a hold full of water.
S.S. ROYAL EMBLEM HARMATRIS slightly damaged.	S.S. ROYAL EMBLEM in Convoy W.N.7 was machine-gunned off Aberdeen at 0800 and had her steering gear damaged. The Convoy was attacked again off Buchan Ness during the afternoon and HARMATRIS was slightly damaged but proceeded with the convoy.
S.S. ASSUAN damaged.	S.S. ASSUAN was bombed and damaged off Scurdy Ness and went ashore.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation Z.E.E. 27. — PLOVER laid mines last night in St. Georges Channel.

Mining off Humber. — Harbour defence patrol vessel BAHRAM was mined and destroyed this morning in North Channel, Spurn. Six enemy aircraft were reported off Flamborough Head at 1555 today, thought to be mineleying. Several mines were exploded today.

FIR damaged. — M/S Trawler FIR was mined and damaged off Fobruan this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Winch" — 12 Hurricanes flown off from ARK ROYAL arrived at Malta today. One of them crashed on landing and was considerably damaged.

Enemy Air Attacks. ABINGDON damaged. — ABINGDON received slight superficial damage when bombed whilst minesweeping off Vélfila (Malta) this morning.

S.S. NORTHERN PRINCE sunk. — S.S. NORTHERN PRINCE with British and military stores and important materials for Greek power factories was sunk by air attack p.m. today in Anti-Kithera Channel.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.41. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

7th S/M. Flotilla. Whether to carry out a second Biscay Patrol.	If submarines of 7th Flotilla are required to proceed on a second patrol in Biscay area the following approximate programme could be carried out. Request I may be informed as soon as possible if 7th Flotilla submarines will be required for a second patrol. (F.O.S. 1131/3.). My 1131/3. Another factor affecting the decision as to whether 7th Flotilla should be ordered to carry out a second patrol is shortage of officers. While on patrol it is necessary to provide H and L class submarines with one additional officer each over and above the complement required while employed on training duties. The result of this is to produce complete stagnation in filling appointments to new construction and submarines completing refits. Should this stagnation be prolonged the situation will become serious. (F.O.S. 1914/3.).
Escorts for shipping in Irish Sea.	Measures approved and to be implemented (V.C.N.S.)I922/3 to C. in C. W.A.). See Lion Copy.
Irish Sea Strengthening of Convoy Escorts.	Your 1252/2. 82nd and 29th Groups consisting of 8 vessels maintain patrols as follows. In view however, of urgent requirement mentioned in your signal, it should be possible to spare temporarily 82nd. A/S Group Ex AAR undergoing repairs and 2 A/S trawlers of 29 Group. This will leave 2 A/S trawlers to maintain Boom Patrol and Patrol on Loops can be provided temporarily by Campbeltown while A/S training is suspended as at present. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/4 to C. in C. W.A.
MARGARET JOHNSON.	(Swedish, 5143 Tons). Leaves Faroes for Gothenburg routed as follows. 2. Ship should not be molested. (D.O.D.H. 1921/3.).
Escort Groups for Convoys between Iceland and about 35° W.	Will be required for all H.X. and S.C.Convs and some O.B. Convoys. Proposals to provid (C. in C. W.A. 2336/3.). See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.41. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Invasion Defence Scheme PURGE. — It is proposed to draw up combined anti-invasion instructions under title of Naval Home Commands, anti-invasion defence scheme. (short title PURGE). Particulars. Request your remarks. (C. in C. Nore 1052/3.) Replies (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/3, V.A. Dover 1841/3.).

Heads of Ayr. C.H.L. Station. — Reference T.L.C. trial with C.H.L.station. V.A.C.T.C. is requested to signal date by which station should be installed at Heads of Ayr. (D. of L.D. 1608/3.).

Movements.

Floating Dock. A.F.D.7. — A.M. 2217/2. Request you will give orders when A.F.D.VII is to leave Portland. F.O.I.C. Portland can provide two A/S Trawlers as escort if these can be relieved in the vicinity of the Start. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0017/3.). Your 1123/2. A.F.D.7 arrived. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0713/3.).

ICARUS. — Propose ICARUS sails for Humber 9/4 for boiler cleaning and completion of fitting of permanent internal D.C. equipment. (D.20. 0930/3.).

RESOLUTION. — Request you will detach two of 5th D.F. at Dark to-day, to return to Plymouth by 0715/4 covering Westbound Shipping from Falmouth en route. (C. in C. Plymouth 1125/3 to RESOLUTION.). Admiralty 1321/19. 1937/19. 1610/24. My 1825/2.
(1). A/S Escort, LEGION, PIORUN, GARLAND, LEOPARD, S.O. LEGION.
(2). Further orders for Destroyers will be given subsequently.
(3). Request you will sail ships accordingly (C. in C. W.A. 1158/3, to F.O.I.C. Greenock

/A.M.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

RESOLUTION. Contd.

A.M. 1321/19/3 and 1937/19/3.
In order that the maximum protection may be given to RESOLUTION while passing through the area to the South and South-West of Iceland, which is now seriously threatened by submarine attack, it is desired to retain the four destroyers detailed by C. in C. W.A. to the limit of their endurance.
2. Request therefore that F.O.I.C. Iceland will arrange to sail ACTIVE and ECHO to R.V. with RESOLUTION as ordered by C. in C. W.A. and escort D.S.1. into Reykjavik.
3. D.S.1. should then remain at Reykjavik until such time as RESOLUTION's screen has fuelled at Reykjavik. (D.O.D.H. 1522/3.).
C. in C. Portsmouth's 2027/2. R.T.A.1748/4.
Best speed of advance 14 knots. Eight hours in harbour will be required to clean condenser. (RESOLUTION 1756/3.).

ARGUS. Admiralty's 1356/2. Add ARGUS.
(D.O.D. H. 1740/3.).

Operations.

Azores-Madeira Patrol.

My 1212/26. It is desired to shift patrol areas approximately every 7 days commencing on 4th/4. The next area for patrol is to be between Azores and Madeira.
2. F.O.C.N.P. and F.O.C.N.A. are requested to promulgate the necessary orders.
(V.C.N.S. 0036/3.).
My 0036/3. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to detail 2 C.B.Vs. to patrol in the area between the Azores and Madeira, the 3rd is at F.O.C.N.A's disposal for patrol further south. (V.C.N.S. 2244/3.).
My 0036 and 2244/3. German and Italian shipping from South American ports attempting to reach French West coast ports may pass through the area of the Azores on or after 12/4.
2. It is desired to establish a patrol in the area by 12/4.
3. C.B.Vs. can only be available if 2 of the 3 now proceeding south from the norther zone are fuelled and watered at Gibraltar instead of returning to U.K.
4. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to detail the C.B.V. to return to U.K. on completion of patrol.

/5. Unless....

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Azores-Madeira Patrol.	5. Unless he has serious objections to para. 3 above F.O.C.N.A. is requested to order the 2 remaining C.B.Vs. to leave patrol in time to fuel and effect any necessary repairs at Gibraltar and to sail them on completion to establish patrol in the Azores area. (V.C.N.S. 2247/3.).
Interception of M/V.	Your 2154/2. LEICESTER CITY is in a position to intercept providing ship continues course and speed reported from aircraft. LEICESTER CITY has sighted nothing yet. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0917/3.).
East Coast Patrol.	No A.P. vessel at Sheringham buoy tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1115/3.).
Jan Mayen.	Your 0957/2. Request you will inform me what arrangements if any have been made for protecting Meteorological expedition in Jan Mayen Island and whether you consider the situation satisfactory. (A.C.O.S. 1235/3 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.). H.J.BULL (Whalecatcher) sailed for Jan Mayen. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2310/2.).
Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.	A. Submarines should be ordered to leave Patrol in accordance with My 1156/2. B. Pending Admiralty decision as to whether submarines of the 7th Flotilla are required for a further Patrol, preparations are to be made to carry out one of the following alternatives. (F.O.S. 1254/3.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 1737/29. (B) Cross over patrol not being carried out tonight due to weather.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0041/3.).
Request SOLLO for same times 4/4.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0335/3 to H.Q.F.C.).
Patrol STAB now in operations.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1110/3.).
Cancel my 1737/29/3. Following R/C. and patrols are flown confirming presence of enemy B/Cruisers in Brest or to detect their departure.
(A) Daily P.R.U. of Brest result of which is promulgated by Adty.
(B) Cross over patrols by A.S.V. fitted aircraft between 048° 32' N., 006° 53'W.,and 047° 23' N., 004° 50' W., from 2 hours after dusk till dawn Aircraft W/T frequencies as before.
(ii) In addition frequent R/C of West Coast of France is carried out.
(iii). One Sunderland and two Wellingtons are held in readiness for distant R/C.
(IV) You will be informed if patrol in paragraph one B is not practicable on any day or if there is any change in dispositions.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1825/3, to C. in C.H.F, F.O.C. 1 B.C.S, S.O. Force H.).
My 1825/3 para. one (b) Cross over patrol not being carried out tonight due to weather.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2129/3.).

Enemy Air Activity.

FERMAIN.
(Bombed and sunk 2/4.).

My 1747/2. Vessel was bombed at 1320. Convoy ship picking up crew in 53° 35' 30"N 00° 52' 30" E. (F.O. Humber 0107/3.).
12 Survivors uninjured 2 stretcher cases from FERMAIN sunk in F.S.51 landed Southend All crew saved. (N.C.S.O. Southend 1524/3.)

Convoy
F.S.Odd.

Help Convoy BOOTY position 52° 2' N., 1° 46 E. 214° 8 miles. (QUORN 0610/3.).
Help Convoy BOOTY position 51°N.,1° 45'E. 214° 8 miles. (QUORN 0618/3.).

/FILLEUL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

FILLEIGH. (British, 4886 Tons.) Machine gunned off Rattray Head. (FILLEIGH. T.O.R. 0756/3.).

RESOLUTION. Air attack imminent on Falmouth, RESOLUTION, and escort. (Plymouth W/T 0852/3, and 1015/3.).
Help Convoy BOARD. My position 50° 52' N., 4° 54' W. (RESOLUTION 1708/3.).

CLAPHAM. (British, 763 Tons) Master reports attacked by two enemy aircraft at 2045/2 position Tusker 145°. Damage to port lifeboat 0930/3 ends. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1015/3.).

LOCUST. attacked. (Gunboat). With F.3.51 in Barrow deep reports as follows at 0847 today "Have been attacked by dive bombers no damage or casualties. Two planes hit last seen losing height rapidly and smoke from one engine." Later at 0900 "Merchant ship reports one plane seen to crash in the sea to eastward - appears to be Messerschmitt 110.".
(C. in C. Nore 1017/3.).

Skua A/C. damaged. Your 1225/2/. It is not understood how six could be severely damaged by blast and falling debris if they were dispersed.
(5th S.L. 1204/3. to St. Merryn.).
Your 1204/3. Aircraft were all at St. Eval when attack took place and were dispersed with minimum distance of 30 yards between adjacent aircraft. It is now confirmed that two 500 lb. H.E. bombs fell among them and maximum damage occurred to aircraft furthest from the bombs.(St.Merryn 1459/3.).
My 1225/2 five of these Skuas have now been twice damaged by nearby explosions of heavy bombs. Particulars. (St. Merryn 1704/3. to RANAS.).

/VALESCA.....

War Diary. 3.4.41. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

VALESCA HORTENSIA. (M/S Trawlers) Damaged by Air Attack night of 1/4. Estimated minimum time for repairs is 14 days and 7 days respectively. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1240/3.).
Add to my 1240/3 attacked off Cromer. One rating wounded in VALESCA no casualties in HORTENSIA.(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1730/3.).

Alleged firing on own A/C. Your F.O6 X. 434 28/3. Following has been received F.O.I/C. Yarmouth.
Begins. No vessels in or off Yarmouth fired on Blenheim on the after-noon of 24/3. The report apparently came from a policeman who saw neither flash or smoke of discharge or shell burst. He also states machine after circling the town again proceeded seaward flying level on a steady course and no faltering or engine. Ends.(1930/30). (D. of L.D. 1456/3 to Air Ministry.).

Convoy W.N. Odd. Help convoy MUSTER position ? latitude,1° 45' W. (GLEANER 1505/3.).
Fighters are being sent to the assistance of Convoy MUSTER. (Rosyth W/T 1512/3.).

GEDDINGTON COURT. (British, 6903 Tons). Received from GEDDINGTON COURT.
My 1412/3. Number 4 hold full of water. Returning to Methil. (Cullercoats 1509/3.)
GEDDINGTON COURT attacked by Aircraft in 56° 25' N., 2° 13' W. (Lyness 1512/3.).

LORNA DOONE. In action with three A/C at 1032/3 off Southwold. R.N.O. Southwold witnessed action and reports accurate and rapid fire of ship caused two pieces of one A/C to break off. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1549/3.).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Convoy MUSTER.	S.O.S. MAYDAY (R/Taircraft distress call) MUSTER 130 Buchaness 5 miles - 190 - 6-1510/3 de GKR. (Lyness 1550/3.). Rescue Tug ATTENTIF sailed to vessel in distress off Buchan Ness 130 deg. 5 miles at 1610/3 with orders to tow to Peterhead or Aberdeen or beach. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1610/3.).
JEANNIE LEASK. Bombed 22/3.	Is repairable. Request Salvage assistance t Make vessel seaworthy for transfer to Rowhedge. for damage repairs. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1555/3.).
SILVER DAWN.	(Mine Recovery Vessel). Sustained slight damage to Hull aft. below water line, as result of near miss by enemy fire P.M. 2/4/ (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1700/3.).
CHESAPEAKE. (Bombed 1/4.)	At present anchored in Walton Bay with unexploded bomb in No. 9 hold. Ship was attacked twice on 1/1 first in 325° Small' 15 miles at 0850 and secondly in 180° St. Govans 10 miles at 1610 when vessel wa hit. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1815/3.).
WILD ROSE.	(British, 873 Tons). Attacked by enemy aircraft in St. George's Channel last nigh Taken in tow by steamer KERLOGUE and beach near harbour at Rosslare. No casualties. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1821/3.).
ADELSEN. KAIA KNUDSEN. SAN CONRADO HILDEFJORD (Bombed 1/4.).	Following is the state of four tankers th were bombed yesterday. 1. ADELSEN in Harbour Hole about 15 feet long Portside from upper deck to Waterlin Midship Caste burnt away. Lost about 1000 tons of oil fuel. Could probably be tow to Bristol Channel Port in calm weather, Port Anchor and cable lost. 2. KAIA KNUDSEN in Harbour unable to stee bridge telegraph etc., shot away. Damage engine room. Could be towed to Bristol Channel Port in calm weather. 3. and 4. SAN CONRADO and HILDEFJORD at 1 today by rescue Tug ST.OLAVES in positio 170 degs., Tuscar Rock 12 miles. Remains both ships blazing furiously, stern only visible. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1902/3.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

MELROSE ABBEY. (Grounded 28/3.).	Hit by floating mine evening 2/4. (Adty. Salvage Officer, Aberdeen 0723/3.).
BAHRAM.	(Harbour Defence Patrol Craft). Lost by underwater explosion in North Channel Spurn at 0740 this morning. One Survivor. (F.O. Humber 0830/3.).
Blyth.	Port re-opened to outgoing traffic. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0855/3.).
S.N.8.	Your 0914/1/4. COSSACK and ANTHONY will be sailed to arrived Port ZA. P.M/4. Friday/4. (R.A.D. H.F. 0927/3. to RAM.).
Z.M.E.27.	Operation Z.M.E.27 completed. (PLOVER 1027/3.).
B.S.53.	Operation B.S.53 postponed a further 24 hours owing to weather. All times in my 0915/1 to be 48 hours later accordingly. (S.O. M/L. Immingham 1120/3.).
S.N.8.	Intend to carry out S.N.8. as follows. Particulars. (R.A.M.L. 1341/3.). See Operations Volume.
Flamborough Head.	Coastal Command reports 6 enemy aircraft off Flamborough Head at 1555 thought to be minelaying. (D.D.I.C. 1630/3.).
MELROSE ABBEY (mined 2/4.)	Drifting mine exploded alongside MELROSE ABBEY 1800/2/4 Salvage Officer reports large hole amidships port side. Repairable. No casualties. Crew evacuated. Arrangement made for A/A guard. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1706/3.).

/Milford Haven.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Milford Haven.	4 Mines detonated by M/S Trawler today as follows. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1731/3.).
Spurn Point.	Mines exploded today as follows. Spontaneous explosions occurred at 2134/2. 2242/2. and two at 0044 today, positions unknown. (F.O.Number 1825/3.).
FIR	(M/S. Trawler) R.N.C. Fowey reportg 1520/3 two mines exploded in position 210° approx., half mile from Polruan C.G. Watch House. Ship making water rapidly. Am beaching her in Pontpill. No deaths, six injured. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1944/3.). H.M.T. FIR at 1605/3. Exploded mine in position 210° approximately ½ mile from Polruan C.G. Watch house. No deaths, 6 injured. Ship beached Pont Pill Fowey. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1954/3.).

MOST SECRET.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU.	Visual R/C of Brest 3/4, shows SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still present. (D.D.I.C. 1212/3).
E/Boats.	Air R/C shows 6 E/Boats at Brest. E/Boat attack on shipping may be expected when weather is suitable. All escorts and patrols are to be warned accordingly. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1345/3).

Miscellaneous.

Loch Ewe. Proposed survey.	Submit that a surveying ship should visit Loch Ewe to carry out a detailed survey of places suitable for beaching damaged vessels. The place selected for beaching STAFFORDSHIRE unfortunately had a rock out crop which has severely damaged the ship. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1151/3).
Blyth.	Port closed owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0650/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

The Smalls.

A.M. 1208/2. Coastal shipping which normally sails (a) in groups between Bristol Channel Ports and English Channel (B) independently between Bristol Channel Ports and ports North of Milford Haven (C) between one Bristol Channel port and another, may be sailed subject to provisos that part of the voyage between St. Govans and 20 miles N., of the Smalls is made in dark hours and that Northbound shipping passes E. of the Smalls whenever practicable. (D.T.D. 1636/3 to C.in C. Plymouth etc.) Amended 1823/4).

Plymouth
Falmouth
Bristol
Channel.

Schedule of Sailings to be brought into force. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2001/3, to all F.O.I.C's etc.) Text in Lion Copy only.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

TARANSAY. BIARRITZ.	S.S. BIARRITZ belonging to Southern Raily: Port of Registry London, on Government work between Larne and Stranraer, collided with H.M.Y. TARANSAY at 0015/3 off Larne. Consider BIARRITZ to blame. TARANSAY was at anchor. Damage to TARANSAY above water and not heavy. Ship fit for sea. (N.O.I.C. Larne, 1100/3).
WINDERMERE.	Ordered to return to Stornoway owing to defects and leakage. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1207/3).
VESPER.	Steering gear broken down, wheel jammed hard a starboard. Unable to steer by main engine. Am anchoring by B.8 buoy. Request tug. (VESPER, 1520/3). Tug KENYA is proceeding now to tow you to Harwich. (C.in C. Nore, 1643/3 to VESPER).
Arrived.	VESPER towed by tug LADY BRASSEY at 2025. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2027/3).
JOHN ALFRED.	(A/P Drifter). Broken down, unable to go on patrol owing engine trouble. Anchored 4 miles N.20 W. B.8. (S.O.A.P. Brightlingsea, 1834/3).
EMILE FRANCQUI.	(Belgian 5936 tons). Struck on Bell Rock. (Cullercoats Radio 2140/3). S.O.S. Ship disengaged from rock making water in holds steamer ship ashorenear Bell Rock. (EMILE FRANCQUI 2352/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAPO ALGA
BURANO.

Cancel my 2148/2. (reported sailing of Italian CAPO ALGA and Tanker BURANO).
My 1010/2. Consul Teneriffe reports remaining Italians are at Teneriffe proposing to leave at two or three days intervals. (A.1.) Assume V.2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0112/3 to MARSDALE).
My 2145/1. Italian vessels mentioned reported by Spanish Vessel DOMINE to have been seen heading south at dawn/2.
(B.1.)
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1130/3 to Admty).
(F.O.C.N.A. 2326/3 to N.A.Station).

BRITANNIA
(Sunk by raider 25/3.)

British ship BRITANNIA which left Liverpool 11/3 was attacked and sunk by an enemy merchant raider at 0730/25 exact position unknown. Raider not identified but had letters BRAC on bows and Japanese characters on stern. It had also single funnel probably telescopic. 77 survivors were picked up by Spanish vessel CABO-DE-HORNOS at 2130/29 in position 7° 50'N., 25° 56'W. Ten survivors wounded landed here for treatment. I am awaiting Spanish Authorities decision regarding disposal of remainder as they have raised question of internment. Immediate following telegram giving names of survivors, who include Navy Army Air Force personnel and civilians. No particulars of missing persons can be secured.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 0445/3 to Admty).
List of survivors. (1130/3).
Persons landed for treatment. (1130/3).
Spanish CABO DE HORNOS leaves Teneriffe 1200/3 for Cadiz, has on board 77 survivors from British ships including 39 service personnel and 10 wounded.
M. for F.A. anticipates no trouble over their release in view of precedents including H.M.T. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE but requests fullest information as to whether service personnel were on duty on passengers in transport.
(N.A.Madrid, 1347/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/All

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

All Naval military and air force personnel comprising total of 49 have been provisionally interned.

Mercantile Marine Officers and crew together with passengers making total number of 28 have been allowed to continue voyage in CABO DE HORNOS which is leaving for CADIZ 1500 today. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1730/3).

FRISCO
FRANCO MARTELLI
DRESDEN.

Following Italian ships will possibly enter North Atlantic Station April 3 or 4th. FRISCO from Ceara 28/3. Tanker FRANCO MARTELLI from Pernambuco 28/3 ostensibly Oslo.German DRESDEN, left Santos 28/3.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0940/3 to N.A.Station).

ANTARKTIS
German.

Returned to Vigo this morning.
(Consul, Vigo, 0945/3 to Admty).
ANTARKTIS left Ferrol 0230/3.
(Guyatt Coruna, 1100/3 to Admty).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1816/3 to N.A.Station).
My 0945. Understand time when tanker left Ferrol was 0200/1.
(Consul Vigo, 1224/3 to Admty).

OTUS
OLYMPUS.

A.T.1054/2.
OTUS and OLYMPUS prepare for sea.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1003/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1003/3. Both submarines ready.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1050/3).

BRITANNIA.
Survivors.

My No.26. (0445/3) All N.M. and A.F. personnel, 49 have been provisionally interned. Grateful if steps possible to permit of their departure.
Mercantile Marine Officers and crew, with passengers, total 28, allowed to continue voyage in Spanish CABO DE HORNOS leaving for Cadiz 1500/3. Exceptional generous treatment given by Master and crew of rescuing vessel. Suggest some mark of appreciation be shown them.
(Teneriffe, 1730/3 to Ambassador, Madrid)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

REPULSE
FURIOUS
ARGUS
and
NARKUNDA.

Request you sail to U.K. as soon as escort available after operation TENDER has been completed. Final destinations are as follows:-
(a) FURIOUS, Belfast. (b) REPULSE, ARGUS and NARKUNDA, Clyde.
(V.C.N.S. 1745/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A.M.C.
refits
U.S.A.

Your 2059/28/3.* Dates for BULOLO, ASTURIAS.
* (Refit in U.S. for 3 A.M.C's).
(C.in C. S.A. 1901/3 to Admty).

A/C Crew
rescued
by Spanish
ship.

N.A.Madrid 1001/29.
(re arrival of crew of captured plane).
Have arrived Gibraltar safely.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1944/3 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

LECH
BABITONGA
(German).

Following from N.A. Rio de Janeiro
LECH probably sailing tonight.2/4Expect
BABITONGA to do likewise from Santos.
LECH short of oil but BABITONGA has oil in Barrels. They have probably arranged R/V.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0014Z/3 to S.A.D.)

XXIV MAGGIO
OSORNO.

Pernambuco reports Italian ship MAGGIO has received 1850 tons of coal.
German ship OSORNO is reported to have sailed from Talcahuano.
(S.O.(I)/0201Z/3 to S.O.(I) Freetown).
Montevideo.

HIMALAYA.

HIMALAYA arrived this morning from Kismayu in ballast 43 days on passage Gilchrist.
(E.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 6916/3, to Admty). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1836Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Your 1859N/31 and my 2031Z/30. Have obtained all available oil fuel. SOUTHERN EMPRESS will have 1340 tons, SVEND FOYN 1960 tons.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1135Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Faulklands C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Raider Identity.

Request reply to my 1606/30. If attacker of BRITANNIA did not resemble SANTA CRUZ, it appears possible two armed merchant raider are operating in North Atlantic.
(D.D.I.C. 1226/3 to C.in C. S.A.)

Convoy W.S.6.

Position 31/3 W.S.6. convoy sailed 1100. While in Port disembarked troops from NORTHUMBERLAND, AIMANZORA, RUAHINE, MATAROA, RANGITATA and re-embarked in W.S. ships. Also embarked. (details). List of ships, fuel lifted, and fuel on Board on sailing.
(N.L.O. Durban, 1255/3 to Admty for D.S.T

NELSON W.S.7.

D. of S.T. 1652/2 not to NELSON. NELSON may be used to assist in transpor of personnel to Capetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1418/3 to C.in C. S.A.)
My 1230/30 March and your 0746/3. NELSON will continue to the Cape with convoy W.S.7.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2246/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

AMABILITAS.

Reported by N.C.S.O. Bahia Blanca Italian AMABILITAS has received permission to sail.
(N.A.Buenos Aires, 1700/3 to D.N.I.)
(Montevideo 2104Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 1700/3. Reported that AMABILITAS cannot sail before 1000/7 (?) as neither pilots nor tugs havebeen ordered.
(N.A. Buenos Aires 1912/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2331Z/3 to R.A.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

LECH BABITONGA.	My 1815/2. No change. LECH and BABITONGA ready to proceed. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1811/3 to Admty).
DUNCAN FOXHOUND.	F.O.C. N.A's 1634/2 and A.T. 1353/26. DUNCAN and FOXHOUND are to remain in South Atlantic Command until the arrival of BOREAS and BRILLIANT. Exchange of VELOX and WRESTLER for WISHART and VIDETTE must be so arranged that C.in C. S.A. always has total of four destroyers at his disposal. (V.C.N.S. 1835/3 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A.)
CALENDULA. KOLT. PICT.	Instruct CALENDULA KOLT and PICT to proceed to (?Bathurst) on leaving convoy to embark as many MEMNON survivors and Greek and Norwegian seamen awaiting passage as can conveniently be accommodated and transport to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1933N/3 to BULOLO).
ILLUSTRIOUS Walrus.	Cancel my 1859/2. Walrus and crew now in ILLUSTRIOUS are to be retained on board until further orders. Replacement Walrus for DORSETSHIRE should be drawn from station reserves. Crew is now on passage to Cape. (D.N.A.D. 2004/3 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

Mediterranean.

MARIANNINA. Italian.	Departure 2/4, for Genoa. (Barcelona, 0020/3).
Operation WINCH.	Have Hurricanes arrived? (1st S.L. 0952/3 to V,A.Malta). No reply in W.D., but see H.Q. Med., 1655/3.

MOST SECRET.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

JANUS.
JAGUAR.

Am sending JANUS and JAGUAR with all despatch to Port Said. Request you arrange immediate transit of Canal to enable these two to reach Suez as early as possible/4. Enemy destroyers last sighted off Massawa steaming North at 1500/2.
(C.in C. Med., 1021/3 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal). See also East Indies, 1122/3. My 1021/3. JANUS and JAGUAR should remain at Port Said pending further instructions.
(C.in C. Med., 1157/3).

Suez Canal.

S.B.N.O. Suez's 1019/27. (Widening of Channel for EAGLE to pass).
Work put back three days by a lighter in tow fouling dredger and sinking where latter was at work.
Date for clear passage now assumed to be 12/4 but if no more delay it is hoped to save one day on that.
(C.in C. Med., 1109/3 to Admty).

Fiume.

Proposal in regard to. (C.in C. Med., 1153/3 to N.A. Belgrade). See Med., Volume.

Tripoli
Bombed.

Operational Summary No.297 up to 1200 3/4/41. Night 1/2. 3 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli Harbour hitting Spanish Mole with possible hit on ship in Naval Basin.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1154/3).

DELOS
(German).

Constantza 3/4. (Departed).
(N.C.S.O. Galata, 1241/3).

Mines.

Request very early information of ship in which 120 L Mark IV mines for Malta are being sent. They are urgently required. Request also name of ship in which scaffolding mentioned in your 1036/11/2 (Scaffolding for Malta Tablecloth defence) has been shipped.
(C.in C. Med., 1551/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TETRARCH.	Extend Patrol area so that Eastern limit is long. 019° 40'. Your Object is to hurry supply ships. El Brega will probably be used asadvance supply base in addition to Burat and Sirte. Ref: memo. S.O.9. para.5 and 6 and my 1145/2. Concentrate on coast between Burat and El Brega. (Capt: S.1. 1653/3 to TETRARCH).
Operation WINCH.	Recco. Eastern Delivery flight 12 Hurricanes successfully completed. Fire formation 6 Hurricanes with Skua was not seen at R/V. Both Sunderland and Glenn Martin were at R/V at appointed time. Secondformation connected with Sunderland and came in with this aircraft. Glenn Martin stayed at R/V but later realized must have missed this formation and returned to base. One Hurricane
Air Raids ABINGDON bombed.	crashed on landing, repairable. Enemy activity. 0700 2 79's. escorted by 6 CR 42's machine gunned high speed launch positioned 40 miles W. of Malta in case of forced landings by Hurrican coming in. No damage or casualties. 1130, 4 JU. 88's escorted by formation M.E.109's circled Island and bombed 2 mine sweeping trawlers off Filfla. 7 near misses on ABINGDON. Slight superficial damage only. (H.Q. Med., 1655/3).
SAVONA LISBOA (German).	2/4 SAVONA arrived, LISBOA left for Marseilles. (Valencia, 1717/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CORFU.

Your 1418/2/4. (docking of CORFU for repairs). Route from Durban to Mombasa should stand as in my 1000/19/3. Onward route will be reconsidered when date of departure from Mombasa is known.
(C.in C. E.I. 0624Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Italian Destroyers from Massawa.

My 0730/2. Photographs show sunken destroyer (LEONE) on her side in shallow water, position given in my 1722/1 therefore only approx. Crew of destroyer had disappeared and empty ships boats were seen close by. (2) At 1155Z/1. Relief Swordfish sighted a second destroyer position 16° 14' 39° 49' proceeding towards Massawa at high speed. May have been carrying survivors, of first destroyer who must have run aground or scuttled herself in her alarm at being sighted. Enemy report of second destroyer failed to get through.
(C.in C. E.I. 0632Z/3 to Admty).

Enemy Ships Bombed 1 M/V hit.

Reconnaissance Swordfish sent to locate a reported S/M in Nakhra Island anchorage off Massawa failed to locate target and attacked an armed trawler and depot ship instead at 1000Z/2. No hits one near miss.
Relief Swordfish obtained four hits on 8000 tons M/V, with lighter alongside at 1215Z/2. Last seen heeling over with smoke coming from large hole in stern. Regret my order not to sink merchant ships cannot have reached all F.A.A. pilots, who were sent to operate from advanced bases immediately on their arrival at Port Sudan.
(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/3 to Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

2 Enemy Destroyers sunk.

My 1736/2. Four Italian Destroyers reported by F.A.A. reconnaissance 19 miles E. of Port Sudan at 03472/3, course N. Fleet Air Arm attacking.
One reported sunk by bombs at 0615Z.
(C.in C. E.I., 0732Z/3, to Admty.)
(This was N. SAURO, see 0816/4).
My 0732/3. Confirm one sunk. Swordfish at 0800Z reported 2 hits on a second enemy destroyer which is now in a sinking condition position 38° Port Sudan 100.
(W.D. Note. This was DANIELE MANIN, see 1308/4). Remaining 2 Destroyers (PANTERA, TIGRE) were in 45° Port Sudan 120 at 0820Z, heading for Jedda.
(C.in C. E.I., 1010Z/3, to Admty.).
My 1010/3.
The damaged destroyer was reported on fire and abandoned at 1430Z.

2 more destroyers located.

KINGSTON located the other two destroyers at 1400Z about 12 miles S. of Jedda, close in shore.
CAPETOWN should be in vicinity also.
TELLIC has been sent to rescue Italian survivors.
(C.in C. E.I., 1450Z/3, to Admty.).

D. MANIN sunk 2 more destroyers aground.

My 1450/3. The damaged destroyer has sunk. Both destroyers (located by KINGSTON) anchored in position 021° 11' 039° 08' and abandoned may be aground.
KINGSTON has been ordered to capture and tow them away if practicable.
(W.D. Note. - These were PANTERA and TIGRE, see 1308/4).
R.A.F. have given valuable assistance in shadowing and reporting.
There are still 3 enemy destroyers out of the pre-war total of 9 not definitely accounted for.
(C.in C. E.I., 1822Z/3, to Admty.).

French Repatriees.

Your 2143/31 INDIARRIBE sailed 0500/3 for Reunion and Tamatave in that order with French troops ex VILLE DE MAJU.
(Consul, Beira, 0835/3, to Admty.).

/ RAMB IV. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

RAMB IV. — Italians announce that RAMB IV, 3676 tons, now at Massawa, has been commissioned as a hospital ship. (D.S. 575, 3/4).

MONTE CUCCOLI reported sunk. — Information received that 6-in. cruiser MONTE CUCCOLI was sunk early in March.

Use of Arabian Ports. — If any Italian warships arrive at Jedda or other Saudi Arabian port request authorities be approached to ensure strictest application of international law. Please keep me informed.
(C.in C. E.I., 1020Z/3, to Brit. Minister, Jedda).

JANUS
JAGUAR — Your 1021/3. Thank you, but owing to good work of EAGLE's A/C your need for these 2 additional destroyers is probably greater than mine. I am however keeping GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN for the present.
(C.in C. E.I., 1122Z/3, to C.in C. Med.).

EMERALD — To leave Colombo at 1100Z/4 and proceed to Karachi arriving A.M./8.
(C.in C. E.I., 1156Z/3, to EMERALD).

Operational Summary No.297 up to 1200/3.

3 Italian Destroyers, Massawa. — 2/4. Blenheim reconnaissances reported 3 destroyers left Massawa 1/4, 1 of which ran aground in North Channel. Further 5 left 2/4.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1156/3).

China.

PIERRE L.D.
COMMANDANT DORISE — French ships PIERRE L.D. and COMMANDANT DORISE passed Sunda Strait 2/4 escorted to Saigon from Madagascar. Latter armed and had many deck passengers.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0443Z/3, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

"S" Report.
? THIRLBY.

Following received from Resolution Island 0420 G.M.T. "SSSS from ROTATAN Pr. 58?1N/38?2W". Unable get bearings or all details of Message. (Rnds.).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0209/3, to Admty.).
Your 0209/3. Ship probably GNRV (?THIRLBY).
N.S.H.Q. 1629/3, to Admty.).

U.S.Coastguard Cutters.

Your 1752/29. President has directed that ten 250 feet 16½ knot cutters are to be transferred to us forthwith. Transfer will take place New York Navy Yard.
All cutters will be fully equipped for service. Seven should be available at New York within week. Two more not later than 20/4, remainder on or 1/5.
(Equipment) Propose officers and ratings for cutters in (? QUEEN ELIZABETH) remain at Halifax until arrangements for transfer completed. (N.A. Washington, 1010/3, to Admty.).

RIO DORADO
SOLITAIRE.

Your 1746/ 9/3. Your 1148/ 4/3 RIO-DORADO and Norwegian SOLITAIRE have not arrived this side. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1013/3.).

"Q" Report
EMPIRE LEOPARD.

Following has been read.
Disguised Raider.
46. 4 N., 27 22 W. suspicious, EMPIRE LEOPARD. (Valentia Radio, 1014/3.).

Policy During Atlantic Battle.

Your 1442/1 and Admty., 1930/2.
Essential features of Battle of the Atlantic area. (a) Never to bring a ship through U-Boat zone if it can be avoided. (b) To refit as many ships on Western side of the Atlantic as possible so that resources on this side can be concentrated on the repair of merchant ships.
(1st. S.L. Personal 1032/3, to C. in C. A.W.I.).

/Cover.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Cover for Independent Shipping.

Your 2323/15/3. Request whenever possible H.M. Ships outward bound to Halifax may be routed to provide maximum cover to independent shipping, passing between position Z.040° 40'N., 050° 00' W., and A, 036° 00' N., 045° 30' W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1121/3, to Admty.).
My 1252/6/1. Consider it particularly important for capital ships returning from convoy duties to afford maximum cover to independent shipping. As capital ships now leave convoy in 035° W., it should be possible for them to pass between positions Z and A as in my 1121/3. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1122/3, to B.S.3.).

Tankers, Martinique.

Master of U.S. Ship ALOCOA PILOT informed R.O. Barbados that several Tankers at Martinique painting French Flags on side. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1201/3, to Admty.).

WAR BRAHMIN.

Considerably damaged port side amidships above water line after collision with CANTON whilst attempting to shore off from CANTON in Grassy Bay during a gale at night. Estimate time for repair 5 weeks. (Odre, I/c Bermuda, 1140/3, to Admty.).

"Q" Report. ZOUAVE.

1310 GMT QQ Q 6030 N., 4132 W., ZOUAVE followed by suspicious vessel. (C.C.A.C.Halifax, 1236/3.).

RHAKOTIS.

Cancelling 1243/2 (Reported sailing). RHAKOTIS is still at Autofagasta. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1502/3 to Admty.,etc.).

"Q" Report SAN AMADO.

Following received from Resolution Island. 1626 G.M.T. QQQQ 046° 03' N., 029° 43' W., SAN AMADO, suspicious vessel. No bearing. (Ends.) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1616/3.) (Valentia Radio, 1620/3.). SAN AMADO QQQQ 46.04 N., 29.32 W., course 110 , ship following, fast two high masts, one black funnel. (Valentia Radio, 1657/3, Lands End Radio, 1657/3.).

/QQQQ. This.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Q. report SAN AMADO.

QQQQ. This ship still following, very suspicious. (SAN AMADO via Portishead Radio, no T.O.O./3.).
Pursuing vessel morsed us cancel Q message but our challenge not answered therefore Q not cancelled, vessel now apparently stopped heading Athwart. (SAN AMADO, 1838/3.).
Following has been read. QQQQ Distress traffic ended from SAN AMADO.
(Burnham-on Sea Radio, 1848/3.).

CANTON.

My 1930/2. (Transport to U.A. of personnel on passage in CANTON in view of her refit in U.S.A.). Personnel should be embarked in T.C.10. and escort overcrowding being accepted. (V.C.N.S., 1627/3 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

"Q" Report.

Following has been read. QQQQ. Unknown vessel, lat. unknown, long. 29° - 43' W., suspicious, 1628/3. (Valentia Radio, 1629/3.).

PRINCE HENRY damaged.

My 1001/3. PRINCE HENRY while alongside HERMONTHIS sustained damage to her side which although not affecting seaworthiness will require dockyard repairs. When situation on West Coast of South America is clear, intend PRINCE HENRY to proceed to Esquimalt or Halifax for this purpose, as Bermuda is already over burdened with repair work. Which of these ports would you prefer her to go to? Prisoners from HERMONTHIS and possibly MUNCHEN will be on board. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1631/3. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

/HERMONTHIS.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

HERMONTHIS & MUNCHEN sunk RHAKOTIS.

My 1001/2. Both ships have been sunk, HERMONTHIS by gun fire from PRINCE HENRY, MUNCHEN by Peruvian Warship ALMIRANTE GRAU. Crew of MUNCHEN not yet located. PRINCE HENRY proceeding to establish patrol off Antofagasta where RHAKOTIS is still in harbour. Callao pass to PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1632/3, to Admty.) Crew of MUNCHEN reported by Press officially from Lima to Lewes arrived in a sailing boat at Ocuma, Peru. (D.S. 577.).

S.L.68. attacks on 21/3, etc.

Your 1507/21. (S.L.68 to proceed Halifax Bermuda and Trinidad independently.) Report received from S.S. NEWCOLUMBIA, DOMINICNT and ST. MERRIL who arrived Bermuda from S.L.68 indicate following. Attacks made on successive nights, all except one believed on Port side. Speed of convoy only 6 knots and large number of emergency uses employed reduced its speed to dead slow. Submarines sighted once on Starboard side of convoy crash-dived so close that noise of tanks venting audible to ships in convoy. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1731/3, to Admty.).

Capital Ship and A.M.C. in Convoy.

Your 1038/29 and other relevant messages. Policy to be followed when both a capital ship and an A.M.C. escort a convoy has been under consideration. Intend A.M.C. (?should be) in lane in middle of convoy astern of capital ship by day, moving up to assist station keeping in convoy by night when capital ship leaves. Question of command is sometimes difficult due to peculiar relative seniority of Captain of A.M.C. and Capital ship. Consider latter must always take command in these circumstances in view of superior communication and other facilities and greater experience of Captain of Capital ship. (R.A.3, 1817/3, to Admty.).

OLTUL. SIRETUL PRAHAVA.

My 1629/5/9/40. Instructions to capture Roumanian ships OLTUL, SIRETUL, and PRAHAVA are cancelled. (Head of M.1856/3, to C. in C. A.W.I., S.A., F.O.C.N.A. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH RELIANCE (W.S.C. 26).

(British, 7000 tons) Proceed with HURRICANE and HESPERUS to assistance BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed in position 058° 21' N. 028° 09' W. at 0051/3. You should arrange for two destroyers to escort S.C.26 from dusk tonight 3rd, submarine PORPOISE may be with S.C.26 until convoy reaches 028° W.
(C.in C. W.A., 0116/3, to HAVELOCK).
BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed in position 58° 21' N. 28° 09' W. at 0035/3 B.S.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0134/3 to W. App., A. and W.I.).

ALDERPOOL (in S.C.26)

British, 4313 tons. Following has been read. SSSS. 58.21 N., 27.59 W., ALDERPOOL torpedoed. 0045/3 G.M.T. (Liverpool W/T, T.O.R. 0140/3).
My 0116/3. ALDERPOOL torpedoed in position 058° 21' N. 027° 59' W. at 0145/3.
(C.in C. W.A., 0157/3, to HAVELOCK).

WORCESTERSHIRE A.M.C. (escorting S.C.26)

Following from Resolution Island: 0356 G.M.T. from M.A.S. " SSSS 58.15 N., 27.35 W., WORCESTERSHIRE torpedoed from MAGICIAN. 'Ends).
(H.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0219/3, to Admty.).
Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side 058° 16', 027° 30'.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 0344/3, to Scapa W/T).
Have been torpedoed right forward starboard side my position 058° 16' 027° 22'.
Convoy was scattered by Commodore at 0321 GMT with my concurrence.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 0513Z/3, to Scapa W/T).
My p.c. and s. at 0830 B.S.T. 58° 28' N. 27° 17' W., 070° 9 knots.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 0731Z/3, to Admty.).
(C.in C. W.A., 0946/3 to HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS, VETERAN).

EELBECK (incorrect report)

(British 6318 tons) Following has been read:- SSSS 58.15 N., 27.35 W., EELBECK torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 0309/3)
EELBECK not torpedoed, see HAVELOCK 2158/3.

/ My 0116/3. ....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

My 0116/3, add EELBECK torpedoed in 058° 15' N. 027° 35' W. at 0309 and WORCESTERSHIRE in 058° 06' N. 027° 30' W. at 0544.
(C.in C. W.A., 0547/3, to HAVELOCK).
S.C. 26 scattered at 0300 G.M.T.
A Sunderland aircraft from Iceland may be able to assist you.
Submarine PORPOISE has parted company and returned to Halifax. WORCESTERSHIRE torpedoed steering 020° 5 knots her position at 0513Z 058° 16' N., 027° 22' W.
(C.in C. W.A., 0731/3, to HAVELOCK).
If Sunderland aircraft arrives for O.B.303 order her to proceed 058° 20' N. 027° 50' W. to assist damaged ships.
(C.in C. W.A., 0752/3, to HEARTSEASE, PIMPERNEL, FREESIA, CAMPANULA).
Detach one destroyer to escort WORCESTERSHIRE. (C.in C. W.A., 0905/3, to
Detach 2 destroyers from escort to cover as best they can ships scattered from S.C.26.
(C.in C. W.A., 0910/3, to VETERAN).
Your 0905. HURRICANE detailed. If Stragglers are sighted they will be routed through 056° 00' N. 021° 00' W. (Weather)
(HAVELOCK, 1010/3, to VETERAN).

THIRLBY torpedoed. — See A. and W.I.

O.B.304 diverted. — OB.304 alter course forthwith to pass through (? 056°) 40' N. 025° 00' W. Convoy disperse in 025° 00' W. No ship is to go north of 057° 20' N. until west of 030° 00' W. SCARBOROUGH and one corvette remain with convoy until dispersal, then sweep along track S.C.26.
(C.in C. W.A., 1047/3, to SCARBOROUGH for Cmdre. VERITY, VIVIEN, CHELSEA.).

WORCESTERSHIRE (continued) — My p. c. and s. at 1000 B.S.T. 58° 35' N. 26° 37' W., 105° 8 knots.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 1101/3, to HAVELOCK HURRICANE HESPERUS).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

WORCESTERSHIRE (continued).

Request most likely arc of dispersal for S.C.25. Expect to arrive 1600 at 058° 12' N. 024° 46'.
(VETERAN, 1050/3, to WORCESTERSHIRE).
If Commodore gave convoy a R/V on scattering pass it to VETERAN.
(C.in C. W.A., 1117/3, to WORCESTERSHIRE).
My 0116/3 and My 0250/3. As S.C.26 has scattered use your discretion when to join convoy observing that it is important that survivors are rescued and any ships afloat and salvable reported.
Tug THAMES has sailed from Reykjavik.
(C.in C. W.A., 1305/3, to HAVELOCK).

BRITISH VISCOUNT, LEONIDAS Z. CAMBANIS, WESTPOOL, INDIER (S.C.26)

Some survivors of BRITISH VISCOUNT, LEONIDAS Z. CAMBANIS, WESTPOOL, and INDIER picked up by HESPERUS and HAVELOCK.
Search continuing, it is estimated 7 ships may have been torpedoed.
BRITISH VISCOUNT abandoned and on fire in position 58° 12' N., 27° 40' W. may be salvable and further signal will be made.
(HAVELOCK, 1608/3, to C.in C.W.A.).
All 4 ships in S.C.26.
My 1608. No further survivors, but empty boat of BRITISH RELIANCE and WESTPOOL found.
No trace ALDERPOOL. (? EELBECK) was not torpedoed. BRITISH VISCOUNT still on fire and not considered worth salving.
Her position now 058° 18' N. 027° 50' W.
HAVELOCK and HESPERUS joining S.C.26.
(HAVELOCK, 2158/3 to C.in C. W.A.).

CLAN OGILVY (torpedoed 21/3).

Report from other ships in S.L.68 (C.in C. A.W.I., 1731/3) See America and West Indies.

CLAN OGILVY BENNEVIS (torpedoed 21/3)

My 1745/2. CABO VILLANO picked up 24 survivors 11° N. 23° 50' W. Proceeding Buenos Aires. Time of signal 0200/2.
(N.A. Madrid, 1923/3, to Admty.).

HELLE

(Norwegian, 2467 tons). Following from Resolution Island: "2250 G.M.T. 3333. 59.00 N. 24.30 W. HELLE torpedoed, sinking slowly now leaving QB" Signal weak unsteady and 2223/3 fading, bearing impossible (ends). (Naval, Ottawa, 2124/3, to Admty.).
Following has been read:
HELLE torpedoed, sinking slowly.
(Wick Radio, 2230/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.4.1941. Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Following has been read.
SSSS Corrected position de GDIK 58.21 N., 28.09 W. (Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0043/3). Admty. Message A.F. position 58° 21' N. 28° 09' W. at 2335/2 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0133/3).

0108. Following bearings probably of U-Boat, obtained at 0108/3 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0313/3 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0141/3 to N.A. Stn.).

ATHENIC (British, 5351 tons). Following received from Resolution Island 0658 G.M.T. from M.A.S. "3333 56.49 N., 27.13 W., ATHENIC, periscope sighted at 0625" (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0519/3 to Admty.). (Port Patrick Radio, 0713/3) (Liverpool W/T, no T.O.O./3).

Estimated U/S dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1345/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy battle cruisers.

The SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were seen at Brest today; no damage was visible on them as the result of air attacks. H.Q.3. considers the chances of interception by S/M's on patrol would be greatly increased by A.S.V. aircraft patrol daily between 2100 and 0100 off Brest.

Strengthening of A/S escorts in W.A. Approaches.

U-boats are now showing reluctance to attack convoys with A.S.V. escorts and one operating to the west of waters in which A/S escort has hitherto been provided. To deal with this, certain A/S groups of the Western Approaches Command are to operate from Iceland. C.in C. H.F. has been asked to arrange wherever possible for 4 Home Fleet destroyers to operate from Iceland as A/S striking forces in support of these escorts.

The 1st and 6th Minesweeping Flotillas are to be lent to C.in C. W.A. and will be employed temporarily on escort duties, operating from Port ZA. In view of the reduction of minesweepers at Scapa two groups of A/S trawlers will be transferred from Rosyth to Orkneys and Shetlands Command.

U-Boat Attack on S.C.26 continued 11 ships torpedoed.

The attack on Convoy S.C.26 by U boats continued today; it is thought that 2 U-boats were working together. S.S. HARBLEDOWN was sunk at 0255 in approx. 58° 15' N. 23° 20' W. S.S. ATHELTO was torpedoed at 1755 in 58°32'N., 20° 15' W.

The total number of ships torpedoed in the Convoy, in addition to WORCESTERSHIRE appears to be 11.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

Survivors have also been picked up from LIGURIA (Convoy O.B.306).

S.S. BRASIL (Norwegian) ex O.B. 304 reported being attacked by a S/M at 2.55 in 56° 16' N. 27° 50' W.

E.boats — 7 E.boats were reported by aircraft in 48° 35' N. 5° 38' W. at 1527, steering west. (Cf. 3/4).

Weather. — Blyth was reopened at 0757.

Plymouth and W.A. Commands. — The adjustment of the boundary between Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands (see 31/3) came into force at 2359 today.

British Air Activity.

Operations against SCHARNHORST, and GNEISENAU. — 61 aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in Brest. Six aircraft crashed on return and 2 failed to return.

The cross over patrol off Brest was not carried out last night on account of the weather. Night patrols on the Dutch and Belgian coasts and in the Channel were also cancelled.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.1.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. SALVUS sunk.

On the eastcoast, S.S. SALVUS in Convoy F.H.49 was bombed and sunk at 2100 in 52° 8' N. 1°37' E; and GUILLEMOT and Convoy F.D. 53 were unsuccessfully bombed at 0746 25 miles E. of Spurn Pt. and believed their attacker was hit.

S.S. CAPE VERDE in Convoy H.X.116 E.M. was slightly damaged at 2128 in 52° 6' N. 5° 42' E.

Trawler DELHI was machine gunned this afternoon and trawler WHITBY was machine gunned and bombed and was damaged and disabled this evening in the Milford Haven area.

Attack in Irish territorial waters.

Coasting vessel S.S. KINGSTON reports being machine gunned by 2 aircraft with German markings from 1900 to 2015 today in territorial waters inside Barrel L.V. She had 16 casualties.

Mining.

Operation R.C.5B.

TAYLOR BANK escorted by LA MELPOMENE and CHAMPAGNE left the Humber at 1550 today, to lay mines in the East coast barrier.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines last night off La Pallice and Brest.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Enemy a/c were heard mining off Foreness (Thames Estuary) today. Mines were laid by enemy a/c last night in the Thames Estuary, and off the E. and N.E. and S.E. coasts.

Further mines were detonated off the Humber today, and off Mile Light (Belfast area).

Falmouth was closed at 0004 and opened with restrictions at 1234.
Milford Haven was closed at 2333.

North Atlantic.

S.O. Force H returned to Gibraltar this morning in RENOWN with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 5 destroyers from Operation Winch.

South Atlantic.

S.S. HARLENE was sunk by submarine in 30 16' N. 140 17' W. at 2020 N. today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.5.1943.
Enclosure.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

The engagement with the Italian Fleet on 28/4 - 29/4 is to be known as the Battle of Cape Matapan.

Last night, 4 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli and claim to have hit the W/T Station.

Air attacks on Convoys.

C.in C. Med. reports that convoys for Operation "Lustre" as well as the Aegean convoys have been running according to plan, though the scale and efficiency of air attacks are increasing. Since 22/3 there have been the following losses due to air action: SOMERIN, NICOLAS EMBIRICOS, HOKEFIELD, COULOURAS - XENOS all empty southbound, and NORTHERN PRINCE northbound, all sunk. CITY and MARIE MAERSK damaged.
The question is discussed in C.in C. Med. 1320/4.

East Indies.

6 Italian destroyers at Massawa sunk.

6 of the Italian destroyers and torpedo boats which escaped from Massawa have now been sunk.

LEONE was sunk by aircraft from EAGLE on 1/4 in about 10° 0' N. 28° 55' E.

NAZARIO SAURO was sunk by F.A.A. at 0215Z/3. DANIELE MANIN was bombed by F.A.A. at 0800Z/3, set on fire, and abandoned at 1650Z, sinking later. FLAMINGO rescued 60 survivors. A second destroyer was afterwards bombed and sunk by Blenheims.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.1941. Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (Contd.)

KINGSTON located two more, PANTERA and TIGRE, at 1400Z/3, about 12 miles south of Jedda. They were found abandoned; towing was not practicable and they sank later.

Prisoners state that GIOVANNI. G. ACERBI having been previously damaged by air attack on date unspecified has had her guns removed and was used to provide spare parts for other destroyers. This is presumably the destroyer seen in Massawa p.m. today, (only one was seen).

The Italian destroyers in commission (out of 9 originally in the Red Sea) which are not yet definitely sunk and whose position is at present unknown are CESARE BATTISTI (reported to have sailed from Massawa 2/4 in company with destroyers PANTERA, TIGRE, D. MANIN and N. SAURO) and VINCENZO G. ORSINI (stated to have been in Massawa harbour 2/4 ready for sea).

China.

BUFFALO sunk. Mooring Vessel BUFFALO was sunk on a British minefield off Singapore late to-night whilst salving a crashed aircraft.

America and West Indies.

Consul, Coquimbo, reported at noon today that German QUITO and BOGOTA will almost certainly sail tonight or tomorrow. PRINCE HENRY was ordered at 1601 to proceed there at best possible speed and establish patrol. Oiler BISHOPDALE will R.V. with her on 8/4.

PRINCE DAVID is to patrol off Para River to intercept NORDERNEY and MONBALDO if they sail.

MOST SECRET.

4.4.1941.
FRIDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Approaches. Strengthening of A/S Convoy Escorts.

Eleven ships of HALCYON class to be lent to C.in C. W.A. and 4 H.F. Destroyers to operate from Iceland. (1st S.L. 1722/4).
See Lion Copy.
On account of recent U/Boat attacks on convoys to the West of the area in which A/S escort has hitherto been provided, it is intended to operate certain A/S escort groups of the Western Approaches Command from Iceland. Request you will arrange whenever possible for four H.F.Destroyers to operate from Iceland as A/S striking forces in support of these escorts when not required by you for other purposes. (1st S.L. 1746/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Irish Sea escort Force.

Irish Sea Escort Force will be constituted as follows.
(C.in C. W.A. 1846/4).

VANITY.

My 2116/2 and A.M. 1922/3. Request I may be informed when VANITY can return to W.A.Command.
(C.in C. W.A. 1858/4).

1st and 6th Minesweeping Flotillas for Escort Duty.

It has been decided that 1st and 6th Minesweeping Flotillas as reconstituted in Admiralty message 213 A.Z. are to be employed temporarily on escort duties operating from Port A as an advanced base under C.in C. W.A.

In view of the reduction of minesweepers at Scapa two groups of M/S trawlers will be transferred from Rosyth Command to Orkneys and Shetlands Command.

Reconstituted 4th M.S.F. will be assembled at Harwich.
(V.C.N.S. 2218/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

GALATEA ARETHUSA.	Scapa arrival F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA with ARETHUSA. (F.O.C.C.S. 0044/4.).
CACHALOT.	On return from patrol CACHALOT is to be placed at extended notice and is to be prepared to sail for the Mediterranean on April 25th. (F.O.S. 1129/4 and 2038/4.).
UNBEATEN.	Sail UNBEATEN for Mediterranean on 12/4. (F.O.S. 1131/4 to S.S.).
COMORIN ASSINIBOINE.	Intend sailing COMORIN and BOREAS at 2300/4 to R/V with ASSINIBOINE and S.S. GLENARTNEY in 270°. Oversay 6 miles at 0800/5 thence in accordance with Adty., 1723/31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1242/4.).
RESOLUTION.	What is your endurance at 10 knots and 12 knots? (A.C.N.S.H. 1306/4.). Admiralty 1306. 3800 and 3300. (RESOLUTION 1800/4.).
STURGEON.	Your 1320/3. STURGEON has failed to join. (WOLFHOUND 1810/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.).
JACKAL KELVIN.	Request you will sail JACKAL and KELVIN for Plymouth A.M. tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth 1907/4.).
C.10.	SPIREA will R/V with you at 0600 in position 180° Eddystone 10 miles. Following movements may affect you. You are to proceed on main motors when inside 30 fathom line. (S.O. S/M's Devonport 2114/4 to C.10.).
FIJI.	Your 2147/4. FIJI course on departure approx. 090°, speed 10 knots. (Loch Oskaig 2235/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/A.F.D.7.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

A.F.D.7. It seems highly improbable that you will be able to obtain the scale of escort you require. Dock should there be sailed with three destroyers and one of the HUNTS now with RESOLUTION. Delay in sailing should in view of possible air attack and shortage of tugs be reduced to a minimum.
(A.C.N.S.H. 2338/4.).

7th S/M. Flotilla. F.O.S. 2037/4. Request you will sail submarines of seventh submarine Flotilla to Rothesay as they become available.
(Capt. S.7. 2359/4.).

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

TORBAY, OBERON, CACHALOT, TUNA, TAKU, STURGEON, UNION. Movements and Orders.
C.16., L.27. (C.16. 2001/4.).
H.32, H.33. (F.O.S. 1507/4, 1624/4, 2031/4, 2032/4, 2039/4.).
C.16 has left patrol and L.27 leaves tonight. Remainder with exception of H.33 and CACHALOT leave the patrol area after dark 6/4. These four submarines will thereupon be moved to positions 72 77 78 80 and will leave for base after dark 9/4.
(F.O.S. 2031/4.).

7th S/M. Flotilla. UNION STURGEON. Your 1131/3. Submarines of 7th Flotilla are to be sailed to resume A/S training as soon as possible after completion of present patrol.

/2. Other.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

7th S/M. Flotilla. UNION STURGEON. Contd.

2. Other submarines at present on Biscay patrol are to be maintained on patrol for maximum period you consider possible.
5. UNION and STURGEON should be sailed for Biscay patrol.
4. Future dispositions must depend on location of enemy battlecruisers. (Ist. S.L. 1707/4.).

Suggested A.S.V. Air Patrol.

Admiralty 1707. It is intended to dispose the 4 Submarines remaining on patrol after 6/4 in positions 73,77,78, and 80. I consider their chances would be greatly increased if an A.S.V. aircraft patrol could be maintained between 2100 and 0100 nightly off Brest. Sufficient warning might thus be obtained for them to proceed on the surface to intercept. (F.O.S. 2036/4.).

Dispositions of S/M's.

(a) My 1254/3. Carry out alternative two with following modification.
TORBAY, TUNA, CACHALOT and TAKU are to remain on patrol until 9/4.
Positions they are to occupy after 6/4 will be signalled later.
(b) H.32, H.35 and 010 are to be sailed for Clyde Area when ready.
(c) S.5 is to retain operational control of 7th Flotilla Submarines until they sail from Channel Ports for destinations to be indicated by S.7.
(d) S.5 may employ BREDA, WHITE BEAR, LA MOQUEUSE and ALECTO for escorting 7th Flotilla Submarines. ALECTO being used for any submarine delayed. (F.O.S.2037/4.).

ECHO. ACTIVE.

My 1936/1. C. in C.H.F. hoped that ECHO and ACTIVE would generally be available to screen H.F. cruisers in and out of Hvalfjord. (R.A.D. 1001/4. to C.S.I.).
Request you will operate destroyers of third flotilla in accordance with Adty's., 1746/4 + and my 1936/1.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2345/4, to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

/REGISTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

REGISTAN.
CAMITO.
MALVERNIAN. — At 2000/4 ships are to change area as follows. (F.O.C.N.P. 0800/4.).

SUFFOLK. — C. in C. H.F. 1020/2 and C.S.1. 1852/2. I have seen Captain of SUFFOLK and am satisfied ship is not sufficiently worked up to take over Denmark Strait patrol. (C.S.2. 1135/4 to C. in C. H.F.).

East Coast Patrol. — Weather permitting one unit of M.L's is to carry out a patrol tonight 5 miles either side of 55 buoy in a direction 020° - 200°. Patrol to commence at dusk returning to harbour at daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1156/4.)

Jan Mayen. — Your 1235/3. An armed party of one officer and 12 men in addition to Meteorologist has been landed, and is now established, in JAN MAYEN. They are equipped with one six pounder and a two pounder besides small arms and I consider situation satisfactory.
This information is regarded as secret in Iceland. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1357/4 to A.C.O.S.).

ASCANIA. — ASCANIA after refuelling is to take N.P. 43. Direction of Patrol is to north eastwards in daylight. Limits of field of ice are to be investigated and possibility of ships passing through edge of ice northward of minefield and to north westward of patrol lines.
2. If N.P. 43 is untenable owing to ice ASCANIA is to take N.P. 42 reporting action action taken and ice limits.
(V.A.N.P. 1410/4.).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
ARGUS
NARKUNDA. — Admty. 1356/2, and my 1745/3. Only 4 destroyers available from my Command without seriously weakening Mercantile convoys. Request at least two other destroyers be supplied from other Commands.
(C. in C. W.A. 1822/4.).

/Your 1822/4.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

REPULSE
FURIOUS
ARKUS
NARKUNDA.

Your 1822/4. It is regretted that there is no other source from which Destroyers can be provided. Even if this means weakening of escort for Mercantile Convoys, adequate escort for this force must be provided. (A.C.N.S.H. 2217/4.).

DIDO.

My 8231/2. DIDO is to provide A/S escort for Oban section of O.G.58 as far as Over-say rendezvous as ordered by N.O.I.C. Greenock, and is then to proceed to Belfast to provide A/A escort for Bristol Channel Section now on X 116 as ordered by N.O.I.C. Belfast. DIDO will subsequently operate with Irish Sea escort force until next O.G. Convoy sails or at least until arrival of Neth Coast Defence ship JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK. (C. in C. W.A. 2141/4.).

Request for further Destroyers for Convoy Escorts.

Very heavy simultaneous commitments for destroyers are anticipated for meeting H.X.119 comprising over 70 ships, and T.C.10 and escorting W.S.8. Request meximum number of destroyers may be supplie from other command. These commitments must to some extent affect start of Iceland scheme. (C. in C. W.A. 2146/4 and 2239/4.).

British Air Activity.

Brest.
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.
attacked.
Rotterdam.
Ostend.

Day 3/4.11 Blenheims carried out sweep of the Northern coast of France, but saw no targets to attack. One Hampden made a dive bombing attack from 6,000 ft. on the GNEISENAU at Brest and successfully evaded fairly accurate flak fire. Results of attack unobserved. (H.Q.B.C.0010/4.).
Night 3/4 April. Brest - SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. A force of sixty two aircraft consisting of forty Wellingtons of 3 group, 19 Whitleys of 4 Group and 3 Blen-heims of 2 Group attacked the Battle Cruisers at Brest, but weather was most unfavourable and haze and cloud prevented definite location of the ships.

/Bombs.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Brest. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU attacked. Rotterdam Ostend. (Contd.)

Bombs were observed to burst over the target area and a line of fire and a white flash were seen in the dock area. Two Whitleys saw their bombs fall across the dry dock.

Oil Storage at Rotterdam.

This was attacked by two Wellingtons of 3 Group, and, although bombs were seen to burst in target area, no results were observed.

Docks at Ostend.

One Blenheim of 2 Group attacked and dropped bombs betreen the main wet dock and new tidal harbours, but owing, to searchlight glare, the results were not seen. (H.Q.B.C. 1945/4.).

French Coast R/C.requested.

Information is desired whether enemy shippi is proceeding up Channel by night. It is thought that movements eastward of Cape Gri Nez are by day only, but that vessels may make this point from the westward shortly before or at daylight. If this is the cas there would be opportunities for M.T.B. attack. It is accordingly requested that an aircraft R/C may be carried out on light nights within the triangular area formed by lines joining the following points:-
(A) Cape Gris Nez.
(B) 50° N., 0° E.
(C) 50° N.1° E.
(V.A. Dover 1928/4, to 16 Group.).

Thames Estuary Dusk Patrols.

A 267 4/4. Your 1816/1/4 and my A.242 1/4. 11 Group require to operate dusk patrols over Thames Estuary. May it be confirmed that they can do so above 5,000 feet witho interference by A.A. fire from special shi Please repeat reply to all addressees in this signal.(H.Q.F.C. 2020/4 to C. in C. Nore.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

GUILLEMOT.

One enemy aircraft dropped 10 small bombs, no hits, no casualties. My position 59A Buoy.
(GUILLEMOT 0746/4).
My 0746. Machine believed to be hit.
(GUILLEMOT 0824/4).

Convoy W.N.7
ROYAL EMBLEM.

(British 4900 tons). Reported bombed off Aberdeen 0800/3. Bridge and steering gear damaged, but proceeding Methil.
(N.O.I.C. Methil. 0934/4). My 0934/4/4.
ROYAL EMBLEM arrived Methil.
Attack was by machine gun only. No casualties. Steering gear damaged. Repairs necessary before putting to sea.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 154/4.)

FORTUNA.

(A/P Trawler). No trace. On patrol Berwick to Farne Islands. Last heard of when she reported at 1805/2 having received distress call from trawler ORAMOND ISLAND bombed off St. Abbs Head that she was proceeding to assist. At 1110/3 C.G. Berwick reported two lifebuoys marked FORTUNA washed ashore and attempts were made to communicate by W/T from Tyne Granton and May Island. Search by trawlers on adjoining patrols P.M./3 was negative, also air search this morning. Stores and gear washed ashore at Berwick this morning.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1227/4).

GELDINGTON COURT
(Bombed 3/4).

Returned from E.N. 94 p.m./3 after enemy attack. Ship has 2 UX.B's and bomb disposal party is now on board.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1236/4).

Convoy E.N.94.
HARMATRIS
(Bombed /3/4)

(British, 5395 tons). Your 2215/3.
HARMATRIS arrived Methil. Dynamo and D/G out of action. Hatch covers blown off. Lifeboats damaged. Loaded wheat. Suggest unload Leith. One killed one seriously wounded.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1714/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy YOUNG	Request fighter protection for YOUNG (AVON VALE 2035/4).
Convoy H.X. 115. CAPE VERDE Bombed.	(British, 6914 tons). Damaged and making water. Can maintain speed of convoy. Position 052° 06' N 005° 42' W. (WOOLSTON 2122/4).
SALVUS (British, 4815 tons)	2 Tugs being sent now. If ship is seaworthy and tow satisfactory proceed to Humber. (C. in C. Nore 2247/4 to PUFFIN). My 2140/4. Ship has broken in halves and sunk. (PUFFIN 2250/4). Wreck of steamship SALVUS in 053° 05' N. 1° 27' E. Have 40 survivors on board 30 European 10 Lascars. 2 Europeans 2 Lascars missing. Am proceeding Humber, expect to arrive daylight. (PUFFIN 2310/4).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Falmouth. Port of Falmouth closed owing to minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0004/4).

S.N.8. Departure Port Z.A. R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, D 4 in COSSACK. ANTHONY LANCASTER, ST. MARY'S. (TRELAWNEY 0630/4).

Operation Orders amended. (1st S.L. 1647/4) (R.A.M.L. 1921/4, 1923/4) See Operations Volume.
1. A/S Air Escort by 18 group will be provided as follows.
2. Close escort will be provided as follows.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1720/4 to R.A.M.L.).
C.in C. H.F. 1945/1 and Adty. 1214/3.
As AURORA is not required for docking until 12/4 intend her to take place of ARETHUSA for operation S.N.8 for which I intend sailing 0720 to R/V with R.A. (M) at 1230/5 in 058° 26' N. 005° 44' W.
(F.O.C. 2nd C.S. 2123/4).

Foreness Enemy A/C minelaying. Foreness C.H.L.Station reports having followed enemy aircraft which left an echo at certain points. These echoes were considered to be of parachute mines which were followed down in flight till the echo suddenly faded presumably on hitting water. Two cases reported were:- (details)
(C.in C. Nore 0920/4).

River Thames. Reward for Mine Reports. In view of paramount importance under present conditions of obtaining accurate reports of mines dropped in the river which constitute so great a danger to shipping and to back up my recent appeal to all river interests for active co-operation in watching for mines, I have included the offer of £5 reward for each proved mine accurately reported.
It is considered important that reward in such cases be paid immediately.
Request I be authorised to act accordingly.
(F.O.I.C. London 1105/4).

/ Belfast. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Belfast. — L L Mark 5 detonated magnetic mine at 0953 in position 042 degrees Pile Light 2.8 miles. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1112/4).

Falmouth. — Jancel my 0004/4. Port of Falmouth now open for ships up to 18 feet draught. My 1920/20. Two ships up to 26 feet draught can now be accepted. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1245/4).

Operation ZME 28. — Particulars. 5.Operation to be carried out on night of 5/4 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1404/4).

East Coast. 2 M/S Floats sunk. — Following received begins: D.21 from CATTISTOCK. Sank 2 anti-minesweeping floats on 3/4 in positions "A" 53° 20' N. 1° 03'E. and "B" 52° 38' N. 01° 59' E. "A" exploded at set depth. "B" did not. 0851 Ends. (D. 21. 1429/4).

Operation B.S.53. — Number 4/4, departures TEVIOTBANK, SHELDRAKE, and LA MELPOMENE in company at 1550. (F.O. Humber 1557/4).

Spurn Point. — The following five mines were exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1807/4).

FIR. (Mined 3/4) — M/S FIR damaged by 2 mines in position 210° approx. 1/2 mile from Polruan C.G. Watch House. Ship beached in Pont Pill. Casualties 6 injured. (C.in C. Plymouth 2207/4). FIR refloated and secured. Hoped to commence repairs tomorrow. (R.N.O. Fowey 2255/4)

Operation S.N.9. — Propose to carry out as follows. (R.A.M.L. 2211/4) See Operations Volume.

Blyth. — Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2232/4).

/ Gap B.
Oropesa Search. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Gap B. Oropesa search.	Following received from F.O.I.C. Tyne Begins:- Oroposa search gap B 17 miles out and back 25% one and a quarter miles each side of centre line. Two floating British mark XIV mines sunk by rifle fire. T.O.O. 2004/4/4 Ends. (C.in C. Rosyth 2254/4).
Milford Haven.	Port is closed owing to minelaying by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2333/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Surface Vessel.	My 2326/3. A further bearing from Georgetown indicates that the position of unknown enemy unit, probably surface vessel, may be 57° N. 24° W. (D.D.I.C. 1218/4).
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.	Visual reconnaissance 4.4.41. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1403/4).
Seven E-Boats off Ushant.	Aircraft report 7 E Boats in 48° 35' N. 05° 35' W. at 1527, steering 270°. (C.in C. Plymouth 1731/4).

Miscellaneous.

Blyth.	Port Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0757/4).

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Convoys in Irish Sea.

Following temporary instructions for Convoys passing through Irish Sea are to put into force forthwith.
(vii) Ships below 1600 tons or are of speed 15 knots and above are to sail independently (C. in C., W.A., 0246/4 to N.O.I.C's etc.)
My 0246/4. Cancel part 3 para 4.
This route cannot be used until channel is buoyed. Ships on passage through Irish Sea are to use existing route.(C.inC. W.A.1058/4)

Plymouth Falmouth Bristol Channel

My 2001/3. Schedule is to be brought into force as follows.
Groups sailing from Milford Haven and Bristol Channel to R/V at 1100/6 at Helwick Light Vessel, thereafter every three days.
Code Words (see list in Summaries Folder)
My 1923/28 to be adjusted accordingly.
(C. in C., Plymouth, 1337/4)

Provision of Air Escort for ships in Irish Sea.

Your 0246/4. It is noted that it is intended to sail vessels under 1600 tons proceeding from Bristol Channel Ports northwards, independently.
In order to avoid casualties which were occurring and at urgent request of A.O.C. 19 Group, these vessels had been grouped in order to facilitate the provision of air escort even if surface escort was not available. Until these were grouped there was a steady stream of small vessels proceeding through the Irish Sea by day for which it was quite impossible to provide air escort. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1345/4, to C. in C., W.A.)

Code Words.

My 2001/3 and 1337/4. Permanent code words allotted to escorted groups of M.V's (C. in C., Plymouth, 1527/4 to F.O's i/c) See Summaries Folder.

Swedish Shipping.

Learn from Swedish Admiralty that owing to extended German War Zone certain adjustments have been made to Gothenburg Overseas Shipping. Vessels ECUADOR REXHOLM and KLIPPAREN directed to Azores to await further orders. MARGJOHNSON and DANAHOLM have passed Faroe Is. and due Gothenburg 5th or 6th. Oiler CASTOR is also continuing on voyage. No ships will leave Gothenburg for the present. Swedish negotiators now in Berlin expected back shortly. (N.A. Stockholm, 1642/4 to Admty)

/Irish Sea....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Irish Sea.

My 1922/3 para. D. Cancel first two sentences and substitute The Convoys are to be run to schedule in the Irish Sea. Ships of speed of 15 knots and above are to sail independently. Small Coasters may be sailed independently when group sailing cannot be arranged.
Amend 3rd sentence to read "Ships other than the above and those in the B.M. portion etc."(A.C.N.S.(T) 1821/4 to C.in C. W.A.).
Admty. A.Z. 700 para B. and A.Z.705 regarding routeing in Irish Sea, the dividing line south of position (G) for north and south bound traffic is to be amended as follows:
Further signal will be made regarding navigational lights in the area concerned, and the date on which this route is to be brought into force.
(D.T.D. 1958/4 to A.I.C. 23).
1. My 1846/4 (?0246/4) Intentions re escorts for Convoys proceeding through the Irish Sea.
Irish Sea Convoy sailings are to commence forthwith dependent on the state of Escorts available.
(C.in C. W.A., 2224/4, to F.O.I.C's Belfast and Milford H.).

Ships in E.C. for Overseas.

Ships sailed in E.C. Convoys for overseas destinations are to be given routes normally to both Loch Ewe and Oban so that they may be diverted if necessary from Loch Ewe to Oban whilst on passage.
Ships eligible only for slow O.B. or O.G. convoys must always be routed to Oban.
(C.in C. W.A., 1835/4 to N.C.S.O's).

Military Convoys.

T.C. Convoys, Commodore.

Request you will in future embark Commodore and staff in T.C. Convoys under similar conditions existing for Mercantile Convoys. It is desired to leave the warship escort free from Commodore's responsibilities.
(D.T.D. 1723/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EMILE FRANQUI	Tug CHAMPION sailed Leith 0007/4 to assist. (C.in C. Rosyth 0010/4). Tug CHAMPION is to be sailed forthwith to assist S.S. EMILE FRANQUI to Leith. EMILE FRANQUI is anchored near No. 1 buoy off Mouth of Tay and is making water but can steam. (C.in C. Rosyth 1033/4). My 1244/4 EMILE FRANQUI reported at 1505 to have weighed and proceeded in S.E. direction from Dundee with Trawler in company. (C.in C. Rosyth 1522/4 to CLEANER). EMILE FRANQUI reported sinking proceed with utmost despatch. (C.in C. Rosyth 1620/4 to CLEANER).
ASCANIA	E.T.A. 0700 G.M.T./5. Urgent defect on main feed pump. Assistance required to repair. (ASCANIA 1055/4 to F.O.I.C. Iceland). Your 1055/4. Proceed to anchor as convenient west of Engey. Fuel Kvalfjord after your defect is remedied. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2215/4 to ASCANIA).
CAIRNIE	Aground 320° North Pier 6½ cables. Crew landed here in life boat - No casualties - steering gear damaged in heavy sea. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1212/4).
Refit of FURIOUS	Adty's 1941/23. Add the following items to paragraph one of my 2211/23. (FURIOUS 1525/4).
GARDENIA COLUMBINE	E.T.A. Aultbea 1900 today. GARDENIA requires asdic repairs COLUMBINE electrical repairs. (GARDENIA 1550/4).
LUDLOW	LUDLOW's 0945. Temporary repairs only can be effected at Scapa which it is estimated will take about 2 days. It will then be necessary for ship to proceed to a repair port. She will therefore not be available to join convoy W.N.9. (A.C.O.S. 1730/4).
RYKABORG	F.O.I.C. Iceland's 1925/2/4. Two Survivors are in Mauchline Convalescent Home. Names. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/4).

/ LORD HOWARD ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

LORD HOWARD — Successfully reflcated this P.M. high water and is now berthed Dover alongside North Wall.
(Salvage Officer, S.E. Coast 1800/4).

ASSUAN — Reflcated 1900. Vessel now berthed Montrose. Repairs can be carried out afloat without discharging cargo.
(Adty. Salvage Officer 2030/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.X.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAPO ALGA BURANO	Italian ships CAPO ALGA and BURANO which left Teneriffe 2100/1 are reported to have been steering south at dawn/2 and may be making for Dakar. - (B.I.). (D.D.I.C. 0010/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A.).
ARK ROYAL RENOWN SHEFFIELD	H.O. four (a) 1030 (b) ARK ROYAL 0000, RENOWN 0045, SHEFFIELD 0130 (c) RENOWN. (S.O. Force H., 0724/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).
Operation "Winch".	"WINCH" completed. Weather conditions D 2 and part D 3 favouring concealment. Aircraft flown off in 037° 42' N. 006° 52' E. Two Cants sighted and attempted to shadow Force H. in 037° 49' N. 005° 26' E. One shot down and one damaged by fighters. One probable Heinkel sighted force in position 037° 40' N. 004° 24' E. but escaped in cloud before interception. All shadowers kept very low and R. D/F of little use. No bombing attack possible due to presence of warm front or cold feet. (S.O. Force H, 0736/4, to Admty.).
ANTARKTIS NORD ATLANTIC BRAKE	My 1224/3 date when tanker (ANTARKTIS) left Ferrol should be 3/4. Tanker NORD ATLANTIC expected to leave Ferrol for docking. It is also said that BRAKE will shortly return to Vigo. (C.O.) (Consul, Vigo, 1100/4 to Admty.).
Force H.	Arrivals S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL SHEFFIELD FAULKNOR FORESIGHT FEARLESS FORTUNE FURY. (S.O.I., Gib., 1130/4, to Admty. etc.).
REGISTAN MALVERNIAN CAMITO	Intend REGISTAN return U.K. with S.L. 69 on completion of present patrol. MALVERNIAN and CAMITO to coal and water at Gibraltar as ordered by you vide Admty. 2247/3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1230/4, to F.O.C.N.A.).

/ Spanish MONTE ESPADAN (detained) ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Spanish MONTE ESPADAN (detained)	Broke undertaking on her return from Genoa. Vessel received orders from owners to proceed to Barcelona and Aguilas where 1860 tons of general cargo, chiefly Esparto grass, was loaded for Huelva. In view of broken undertaking, vessel detained pending instructions. (C.C.S.O. Gib., 1230/4, to Admty.).
OTUS OLYMPUS	Possible that OTUS and OLYMPUS may be ordered to proceed to Malta on completion of their present duty. Request you issue necessary route instructions. (1st S.L., 1413/4 to V.A. Malta). Your 1413/4. I do not consider OTUS is in fit state to operate from Malta as her defects render one shaft useless while diving, my 1704/27/3 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1710/4 to Admty.). Cancel reference to OTUS (1st S.L. 0008/5). Adty. 1413/4. (a) Patrol positions of OLYMPUS and OTUS are 037° 30' N. 000° 40' W. and 036° 08' N. 000° 40' W. respectively. Re W/T watch. (c) Request you will signal to them (i) Q B message affecting their route (ii) Instructions as to W/T watch (d) Codes held. (e) V.A. Malta pass to S.O. S/Ms Malta Force. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/4 to V.A. Malta).
Raider which sank BRITANNIA	Description by Commander Spurgeon, R.A.N. and description of sinking. (B.C. Teneriffe 1731/4).
Operation "Winch".	Cancel my 1603/1. (W/T watches and routines). (S.O. Force H, 1810/4).
Biscay Patrols.	Your 1826/3. (Requesting information re changes in Patrols or in disposition of B/Cruisers at Brest). Para 4. Consider priority of signal should be Immediate and that R.A.F. should adopt procedure referred to in para. 2 of my 1923/24/3 (signalling procedure to be adopted in making daily air reconnaissances of enemy B/Cruisers) (F.O. Force H, 1849/4, to C.in C. Plymouth).

/ BIJOU - BIHEN ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BIJOU-BIHEN — French Auxiliary Fishing Ketch BIJOU-BIHEN from Gibraltar to vicinity Cape Blanco (020° W.) and returning to Brest by end of May should not be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1851/4, to N.A. Stn.).

Force H left. — Departure S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FURIOUS, FORESIGHT, FEARLESS, FAULKNOR, FORTUNE Westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1940/4, to Admty., C.in C. Med.).

Italian SAIGRO SECCO TODARO — Tenerife reports strong indications may sail P.M./4 or 5/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 2108/4 to N.A. Stn.).

LOCH OSKAIG FIJI — Presume LOCH OSKAIG's 2040 (see Home Commands) (sighting of unknown cruiser) refers to FIJI. If ordered to join Force H request you will sail her in direction 265° from Spartel which is my intended M.L.A. failing further developments. (S.O. Force H, 2154/4 to F.O.C.N.A.). LOCH OSKAIG's 2015 to Whitehall W/T. FIJI in position 036° 30' N. 009° 05' W. at 2015/4 E.T.A. Gibraltar 0840/5. (F.O.C.N.A. 2224/4 to S.O. Force H., etc.).

South Atlantic.

W.S.7. NAPIER NIZAM. — My 0111/26/3 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 2002/1. W.S.7 should not be delayed, onward passage being arranged in NAPIER and NIZAM if necessary. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0048/4 to C.in C. S.A.). Your 1215/2. Code Numbers for Ships in W.S.7. are as follows:- (D.S.T. 0825/4 to C.in C. S.A.). Arrival 1200/4 NELSON, WISHART, VIDETTE, DUNCAN, FOXHOUND, escorting W.S.7. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1511N/4, to Admty.).

/ TEGIO (?) ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

TEGIO (?) — Pernambuco reports TEGIO (?) is now receiving water and provisions. She is reported to be under surveillance by Port Authorities. Italians reported to have ordered Spanish Flags to be made ashore. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0229Z/4, to S.O.I., Freetown).

Italian CAPO ALGA and BURANO — Left Teneriffe 1/4 seen heading South at dawn/2. (C.in C. S.A., 0601/4, to BIRMINGHAM, BULOLO).

ORMONDE, service personnel. — Admty. 1721/2. Arrangements made to disembark 250 service personnel. ORMONDE will depart Capetown at 1400/4 for Freetown. E.T.A. 1000/14. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0853Z/4 to C.in C.S.A.)

UMONA Lome — Overdue shipping - UMONA due Freetown 31/3, repeated from Lome Walvis Bay (?20/3) not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1009N/4 1127/5 to S.O.I. Capetown).

MARATHON — Greek, 7926 tons, overdue at Freetown since 13/3, now presumed lost. 2 empty lifeboats found about 250 miles N. of Cape Verde Is. on 16/3. (D.S. 577).

BRIDGEWATER — Delayed, cannot arrive St. Helena until 10/4. Further signal will be made if thought can join you in time to be any use. Do not break W/T silence to give any instructions. (C.in C. S.A., 1515N/4, to Force U).

NORDERNEY XXIV MAGGIO AIDA LAURO — NORDERNEY (German) loaded rubber 1500 castor seed 1041 castor oil 97 hides 630 all in tons. (A.1). MAGGIO (Italian) at Pernambuco coaled 1250 tons from AIDALAURO (Italian) former now alongside Quay receiving water and provisions. (S.O.I. Freetown 1543N/4 to Admty.).

CABO VILLANO (Survivors of CLAN OGILVY and BENNYVIS) ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CABO VILLANO (Survivors of CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS)

Due at Santos about 11/4 Naval Attache Madrid's 1923/3 accordingly being repeated Rio de Janeiro for action.
(N.A. Buenos Aires 1610/4 to Admty. etc.).
Master of Spanish CABO DE HORNOS has informed me that he received a radio message from Master of Spanish CABO VILLANO southward bound stating letter had rescued 24 British subjects at 0400/2 in 11° N. 23° 50' W. and that he searched until evening 2nd for a boat said to contain an additional 60 persons without success. Message states British Ships CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS had been sunk in that vicinity.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1815/4, to Admty.).

AMABILITAS

My 1902/3. Cannot sail tonight 4/4.
My 2026/2. There are also four Danish and four French ships in Argentine ports.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1832/4 to D.N.I., R.A.S.A.D. etc.).

MAURITIUS
EDINBURGH
S.L. convoys.

Your 0152/26/3. MAURITIUS leaves SL 69 5/4 on relief by EDINBURGH and will arrive Freetown 8/4 one day after SL 71 sails. MAURITIUS should be able to sail P.M./8 or 9 and will overtake SL 71 A.M./9 or 10 about 260-400 miles from Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A., 1901M/4, to Admty.).

DUNCAN
FOXHOUND
VIDETTE
WISHART

Your 1634/2 (VELOX & WRESTLER to sail for Freetown if ships mentioned are back at Gibraltar) DUNCAN FOXHOUND VIDETTE and WISHART, are required for escort to W.S.7 and NELSON on leaving Freetown and cannot be sailed for Gibraltar before about 11/4 to arrive about 18/4.
(C.in C. S.A., 1903M/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Italian Ships, Teneriffe.

Consulate Teneriffe reports Italian ships at Teneriffe propose to leave at 2 or 3 day intervals. 2 of these ships CAPO ALGA and BURANO sailed 1/4 and there are 8 remaining to sail. Suspect they may make for Dakar.
(C.in C. S.A., 2025M/4, to S.A. Stn.).

/ AMABILITAS ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ANABILITAS — Bahia Blanca reports has banked fires. She can only sail at daylight high water which is about midday during next three days. No further stores are being loaded and the port charges have been paid in full. No signs of preparation to move can be observed on the other two vessels in the port.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, T.H.I. 2211/4, to R.A.S.A.D.).

Enemy Shipping. — Pernambuco reports general preparations continue but no indications of immediate departure by Italian ships.
No reports received of activity of enemy ships from other ports on this coast.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2348Z/4).

Mediterranean.

Beaufort A/C's for Malta. — In view of necessity for increasing scale of attack on Sicily-Libya supply route, proposed that 6 Beaufort Aircraft of Coastal Command trained for torpedo dropping should be sent to Malta as soon as practicable.
(1st S.L., 0218/4 to Air Ministry).
Arrangements to be made to despatch 6 Beauforts to Malta forthwith. There are 17 key personnel already at Malta. Remaining personnel and all stores should arrive Middle East towards end of May.
(Air Ministry, 1748/4 to Coastal Command).

Battle of Cape Matapan. — Your 1213/2. After consultation with the Prime Minister it is preferred to refer to the action as the Battle of Cape Matapan.
(D.P.D. Approved by.1st Lord..0239/4 to C.in C. Med.).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

U/B Contact.	NUMIAN and HYACINTH attacking contact in position 140 Phleva 8. (CALCUTTA, 0711/4, to N.A. Athens).
U/B in Roumania.	Greek situation report 30/3. 3. Roumania. Submarine under construction Galatz arsenal will be completed during April and probably put at German disposal. (B.M.M. Athens, 1040/4, to C.in C. M.E.).
Greek naval requirements.	U.S. Govt. have asked Greeks to submit list of requirements which might be made available to them through Lease and Lend arrangements. Naval List has been submitted as follows: (N.A. Athens, 1103/4).
UNDAUNTED	Intend to transfer UNDAUNTED to administrative control of Capt.(S) 1 on 13/4. (Capt. S.9 1113/4 to Capt. S.1).
Tripoli bombed S/M's reported.	Operational Summary No. 298 up to 1200, 4/4/41. During night 2/3 2 Wellingtons dropped 3,500 lbs. bombs on Tripoli harbour hitting Spanish fort and Mole. Day 3/4. P.A.A. recce Derna to Jedabya reported 3 submarines on surface position 33° 19' N. 21° 48' E. course N.E. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1146/4).
A.N.F. 24.	Convoy A.N.F. 24 except NORTHERN PRINCE arrived Piraeus 0900/4. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1200/4).
HOMEFIELD NORTHERN PRINCE COULOURAS-XENOS sunk TETI damaged.	HOMEFIELD in ballast sunk as result of air attack off Gavdo P.M./2, NORTHERN PRINCE with British and Greek military stores sunk as a result of air attack P.M./3 in Anti Kithera Channel. COULOURAS-XENOS sunk and TETI damaged by air attack off Gavdo P.M./2. No casualties reported in HOMEFIELD and NORTHERN PRINCE. (C.in C. Med. 1204/4). My 1204/4. Name of first Greek ship should read MOURLOURAS XENOS (?COULOURAS-XENOS). (C.in C. Med. 1814/4).

/UNIQUE
UPRIGHT ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

UNIQUE UPRIGHT	Leave patrol to arrive Malta as follows. (Ccr. S.1, 1216/4).
LATONA	Your 1945/18. Approx. date for acceptance. In emergency working up practices could be curtailed but it is desired to avoid this if possible. Request whether you would prefer two destroyers of 20th Flotilla now as an alternative to LATONA on completion. (1st S.L., 1216/4 to C.in C. Med.).
Battleships.	Your 1868/18. Had been intended to reinforce you with QUEEN ELIZABETH, just completed. Situation in Battle of the Atlantic together with necessity to repair MALAYA torpedoed in the Atlantic, makes it most difficult to spare a capital ship for Indian Ocean or Eastern Mediterranean at present. You may consider damage you inflicted on 28th - 30/3 may have altered situation sufficiently to remove necessity for reinforcement at present time. (1st S.L. 1316/4 to C.in C. Med.).
Convoys and Enemy Air Action.	C.in C. Med. 1329/4 see Mediterranean Volume.
Air Operations.	Daily Summary operation. No flying. (95 Sqn. 1640/4).
Yugoslav naval operation.	Belgrade 1942/4 See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

French Repatriees.

Your 1102/29 and 0644/30. H.M.G. are committed to repatriate these troops, and Portuguese have gone to considerable trouble in making arrangements.
No alternative accommodation has yet been found.
Not considered that military value of these demobilised troops outweighs the considerations mentioned in para 1.
Instructions are being sent to H.M. Consul, Beira, to repatriate them in accordance with present arrangements.
(Head of M. 0050/4, to C.in C. E.I.).

Sinking of DANIELE MANIN.

My 1022/3./ There were no naval casualties. All F.A.A. Aircraft returned safely. R.A.F. Crew believed safe but two Wellesleys are reported to have force landed in Hodjaz and been destroyed. (C.in C. E.I., 01492/4, to Admty.).
/ (Enemy destroyer sunk).

S.U.2.
ILLUSTRIOUS
HAWKINS

ILLUSTRIOUS and HAWKINS escorting Convoy S.U.2 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0614Z/4).

FELIX ROUSSEL
LEANDER

Cancel my 1158/3. Departure of FELIX ROUSSEL from Singapore has been delayed.
LEANDER is now to leave Colombo 1200Z/7 and proceed to Madras arriving p.m./9.
(C.in C. E.I., 0552Z/4, to LEANDER).

HIMALAYA
(Italian)

Reference Reuter report of 3/4 referring to arrival of HIMALAYA at Rio De Janeiro. This vessel took refuge at Massawa or Assab when Italy entered War. No previous information regarding departure from Red Sea has been received, request confirmation.
(C.in C. E.I., 0733Z/4).

Crews for Captured Enemy M.V's.

In anticipation of capture of some enemy ships intact at Massawa and Assab, request you will consider question of provision of crews from India. Can you give any indication of how many crews you can provide? Presume you have no officers available.
(C.in C. E.I., 0742Z/4, to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

/ PANTERA
TIGRE
(scuttled 3/4) ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

PANTERA
TIGRE
(scuttled 3/4)
N. SAURO
(sunk by F.A.A. 3/4.)

My 1822/3 para. 2. Towing was not practicable as both destroyers later sank. One has mast and funnel showing above water. The other is capsized with fore foot just showing above water. The first is in 021° 12' 039° 07', second is two cables S.S.W. from first both destroyers LEONE class.
My 1450/3, para. 3. VELHOE arrived Port Sudan 0500Z with survivors from SAURO which was first destroyer sunk on 3/4. (C.in C. E.I., 03162/4, to Admty.).
Your 1822/3. Can it be discovered by air reconnaissance whether the three remaining destroyers are still at Massawa and if so whether they are in a damaged condition. (1st S.L. 1013/4 to C.in C. E.I.).
Your 1020Z/3.
Am reliably informed Italian destroyers PANTERA and TIGRE are on reef approx. 20 miles S. of Jedda.
Survivors from these ships and from MASADO (Sic) and MANON are arriving Jedda in considerable numbers.
Italian three engined civil aircraft has just landed at Jedda with thirteen passengers seven in uniform.
(Reporting Officer, Jedda, 1144/4, to C.in C. E.I.).
Operational Summary No. 298 up to 1200 hrs. 4/4 1941. 3/4. During morning F.A.A. Swordfish intercepted 4 Italian destroyers off Port Sudan sinking 2 of them. Remainder retreated out of Swordfish range possibly making for Jedda.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1147/4).
My 0816/4 (i) 2nd destroyer sunk 3/4 was the DANIELE MANIN, about 60 survivors have been picked up by FLAMINGO. (ii) S.N.O. Red Sea 0826/4 is passed to you (iii) Destroyers reported in my 0816/4 para. 2 were PANTERA and TIGRE (iv) Reporting officer Jedda 1144/4 is passed to Admiralty. (C.in C. E.I., 13082/4, to Admty.).
Your 1013/4 (i) Air photographs taken p.m./3 reveal two small destroyers (presumably GIOVANNI C. ACERBI and VINCENZO C. ORSINI) in Massowa harbour. Condition unknown. Air reconnaissance of outlying islands carried out 4/4 for the third destroyer. Results of [illegible] information from prisoners. (C.in C. E.I., 14202/4, to Admty.)

/ My 1308 and 1420/4...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

PANTERA
TIGRE
(scuttled 3/4)
N. SAURO
(sunk by F.A.A. 3/4).

My 1308 and 1420/4. Following from prisoners:
(a) The Destroyer reported in my 0730/2 was LEONE. (b) The CESARE BATTISTI sailed from Massawa 2/4 but disappeared during the night of 2nd /3rd. My 0636/3 may refer. (c) The GIOVANNI G. ACERBI, having been previously damaged by air attack on some unspecified date, has had her guns removed and is being used to provide spare parts for other Destroyers. (d) The VINCENZO G. ORSINI was in Massowa Harbour 2/4 ready for sea.
(e) No information concerning S/M's could be obtained.
ii. Following from photographs of Massowa P.M./4.
(a) Only one destroyer seen (presumably GIOVANNI G. ACERBI). (b) 8 out of a total of 28 Merchant Ships are moored head and stern very close forming a boom of ships. Possibility appears scuttling in this formation to preclude use of Harkik Bay anchorage.
iii. The destroyers in commission which are not yet definitely sunk and whose position is at present unknown are therefore the CESARE BATTISTI and VINCENZO G. ORSINI. (C.in C. E.I., 2340Z/4, to Admty.).

Enemy M.V's at Massawa.
CREFELD

Reported no German ships have docked at Massawa. CREFELD, 8045 tons, reported unseaworthy owing to damage by bombs. Other German ships at Massawa unlikely to sail owing to lack of crews. Reported half the crews of Italian ships at Massawa have been recruited for the Army. (D.S. 577).

DURMITOR

Your 1002/1/3 considerable disbursements will have to be made in order to bring ship into seaworthy condition. Hatch cover four derricks and boats were burnt by German. (N.O.i/c East Africa 0904Z/4).

RAMB I.

There are 102 prisoners from RAMB I now in Ceylon. One rating was killed in RAMB I during action and one succumbed to his wounds in LEANDER. (C.in C. E.I. 1026/4.).

/ Regent of Iraq, request for warship. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Regent of Iraq, request for warship.

Due to Coup De'Etat in Baghdad, Regent and various members of government have arrived Basra. Regent wishes presence of sloop and has requested FALMOUTH to proceed to Basra. Although do not consider cause for immediate alarm exists consider this precaution necessary. Propose keeping COCKCHAFER at Basra also until situation is clarified. (N.O.I.C. Basra, 1230Z/4).

Situation.

Naval commitments and proposed strength of Red Sea Force in view of early capture of Massawa being likely etc. (C.in C. E.I. 1438/4) See Lion copy.
Under instructions from Regent and three Ministers embarked in COCKCHAFER for safety. Propose to transfer them to FALMOUTH on arrival. Request approval.
(N.O.I/c Basra 1455Z/4).
For greater safety COCKCHAFER is to proceed and embark Regent and his companion in FALMOUTH at outer bar and COCKCHAFER is then to return to Basrah.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1855Z/4, to N.O.I.C. Basrah).

Naval W/T Station at Harrar.

At the request of Italian General Commanding the City passed via Aden W/T Station and with concurrence of C.O.C. East Africa Naval W/T Station at Harrar (P 7) has established (corrupt group) Addis Ababa (I U B) on 4850 Kc/s.
(N.L.O. Nairobi, 2017/4, to S.N.O. Red Sea).

China.

Naval action in Dutch Waters.

C. in C. E.I. 0656/1 is confirmed and has already been promulgated on China Station a public announcement is of course not desirable. (C.in C. China 0342Z/4).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MYSON SARDINIAN PRINCE SILVERFIR MANOKAI RIO DORADO ATHELFOAM	In Convoy O.B. 294, overdue at their destinations. All with exception of RIO DORADO are believed to have been attacked by enemy raiders between 15/3 and 26/3, (D.S. 577, 4/4).
U.S. Coastguard Cutters.	Your 1010/3. What type of engines have these Vessels? (1st S.L. 0217/4 to N.A. Washington).
FRANKFURT ERLANGEN RHAKOTIS QUITO BOGATA	German ships FRANKFURT, ERLANGEN painting grey. RHAKOTIS awaiting 180 tons fuel. S.O.(I) Callao of opinion QUITO, BOGOTA will be next to sail. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 0956/4, to Admty. etc.). Consul Coquimbo reports German ships QUITO, BOGOTA almost certain sail tonight or tomorrow 5/4. (S.O.I., Callao, 1208/4, to C.in C. A.W.I.). N.S.O.(I) Callao 1208/4. Proceed at best possible speed to establish patrol off Coquimbo. BISHOPDALE will be instructed to R/V with you in position 30° S. 72° W. at 1800Z/8. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1601/4, to PRINCE HENRY).
PRINCE HENRY	Your 1631/3. PRINCE HENRY should be sent to Esquimalt as Halifax is congested with shipping awaiting repair. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1244/4 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
VITTORIO VENETO	Following from Navy Department. From U.S. Naval Attache Rome 1/4. Ministry of Marine neither denies nor admits loss or damage of a battleship. They had no report of battle for 24 hours except from messages (? intercepted) between British Units. (N.A. Washington 1526/4).

/ Dakar. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Dakar. Following from War Department.
From Dakar 2/4. Navy personnel now present number 60,000. In spite of statements by C.O.S. that all native troops arriving are being demobilized, it is believed that they are being kept in service and that French "civilians" recently arrived are really officers and N.C.Os. to form Cadres for expanded forces.
(N.A. Washington 1704/4).

NORDERNEY
MONBALDO
Orders to
PRINCE DAVID — Establish patrol off Para River to intercept NORDERNEY and MONBALDO if they sail. Endeavour not to be sighted.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1853/4, to PRINCE DAVID).

Publicity, ships refitting in U.S.A. — Policy outlined in your 1900/1 is concurred in. (D.P.D. 1943/4 Approved by 1st Lord to B.A.R.M. and 2012/4 to MALAYA)

Australia.

U.S.10. — Admty. 2202/27 and your 1145/27.
All ships of U.S.10 except NIEUW AMSTERDAM should be victualled for voyage to Suez.
(D. of S.T. 1923/4 to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.4.1941. Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Unknown Ship. Following from Resolution Island:
0149 GMT unknown station sending 3333 spark signal QSA3 bearing 80 approx. uncalibrated. No further particulars due short transmission and no rebroadcasts heard. (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0012/4, to Admty. etc.).

WELCOMBE British, 5122 tons. Following has been read:- 3333 59.07 N. 23.42 W., WELCOMBE torpedoed, de MAS.
(Wick Radio, 0156/4) In Convoy S.C.26.

HELLE
WELCOMBE HESPERUS is escorting TENAX in approx. 058° 47' N. 024° 05' W. at 0700. Have picked up 24 survivors of HELLE and am searching for WELCOMBE and U.Boat(Weather) 59° 04', 23°, 43'.
(HAVELOCK, 0718/4, to C.in C. W.A.).
Both in Convoy S.C.26.
Unless survivors of HELLE and WELLCOMBE have been recovered detail one corvette to search. (C.in C. W.A., 0822/4 to VETERAN).
My 0718. Have picked up 26 men of WELCOMBE and complete crew of HELLE. Both ships sank. My p.c. and s. 059° 15' N. 024° 00' W. 100° 14 knots.
(HAVELOCK, 1501/4, to C.in C. W.A.).

BRASIL Norwegian 8130 tons. Following from Resolution Island. 1355 G.M.T.
SSSS DE LIYV 56.16 N. 27.50 W. BRASIL attacked by Submarine. Signal too weak for Bearing (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1230/4, to Admty.)
(BRASIL, 1355/4) (Valentia Radio, 1355/4).

HARBLEDOWN British, 5414 tons, in Convoy S.C.26.
HARBLEDOWN torpedoed and sunk 058° 15' N., 023° 20' W. 0300/4, 24 Survivors.
VERITY, CHELSEA, WOLVERINE, VIVIEN, CONVOLVULUS and rest in company, course 090° 5 knots. Owing to escort fuel position unless weather moderates by tomorrow propose amending route through 057° 26' N. 015° 00' W., 056° 00' N., 007° 30' W.
(VETERAN, 1600/4, to C.in C. W.A.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

HARBLEDOWN (contd.)

C.A.F.O. 380.
(a) Attack not seen by escort, reported 10 mimutes later by another ship.
(b) Port, no
(c) WOLVERINE C to G VETERAN B to F
(d) HARBLEDOWN II sunk
(e) 0255/4, 058° 17' N. 023° 18' W.
(f) 100° 5 (corrupt group) 0 wind 4 sea 3 visibility 3 miles.
(h) Attack from Port bow or beam. Cdre. reports attacks on S.C.26 probable 2 U Boats, 1 each bow firing when end on front resumed after each emergency turn. (VETERAN, 1630/4, to C.in C. W.A.).

ATHENIC

British 5351 tons, in Convoy S.C.26. Following has been read. 3333 58.32 N. 20.13 W. ATHENIC torpedoed 1755/4. (Liverpool, T.O.R. 1858/4). Proceed to assistance of ATHENIC torpedoed in 058° 32' N., 020° 13' W. at 1754/4. (C.in C. W.A., 1917/4, to SCARBOROUGH ARBUTUS). My 1917/4. If no sign of ATHENIC rejoin Convoy and leave ARBUTUS to continue search. (C.in C. W.A., 2327/4 to SCARBOROUGH).

BEAVERDALE (torpedoed 1/4)

ELM and THAMES should be in 061° 10' N. 029° 40' W. at 2359/3. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0002/4 to A.C.O.S.). If nothing found return to Reykjavik with ELM if in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2015/4, to THAMES). My 2015/4, request you will recall ELM. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2016/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.).

Your 1328/4 (Request for movements of Dutch Tug THAMES). THAMES sent with ELM to search for survivors of S.S. BEAVERDALE in 060° 50' N. 029° 19' W. Time of departure 2000/2. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2223/4, to Admty.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0315 — D/F indicates U.Boat in approx. 046° N. 037° W. at 0315Z/4.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1151/4, to N. Atlantic Escort Force RAMILLIES, SURCOUF, DIOMED QUEEN ELIZABETH.).

1225. — D/F at 1225 B.S.T. U-boat in area 54° to 56° N. 23° - 27° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1323/4).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1410/4).

1550. — Periscope reported 4 miles east of Duncansby Head at 1500 moving east. (B.3) R.A.F. Wick informed.
(A.C.O.S. 1529/4, to SARDONYX).
My 1529/4, if no contact by 1700 proceed in execution of previous orders.
(A.C.O.S. 1609/4 to SARDONYX)

1455. — Admty. Message A.F. position 56° 16' N. 37° 50' W. at 1355/4 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1533/4).

1836. — Intercept DALEBY, Addressed CORTES (Begins) DE 63 Periscope sighted quarter mile Port Beam (Ends).
(Valentia Radio, 1836/4).

1855. — Admty. Message A.F. position 58° 32' N. 20° 13' W. at 1755/4 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1921/4).

1940 — D/F at 1940 B.S.T. U/Boat in approx. 47° N. 3° 30' W. probably bound Lorient.
(D.D.I.C. 2020/4).

2311. — D/F at 2311 B.S.T. U/B in area 55° 30' N. to 56° 30' N. 21° W. to 24° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2353/4).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Attack on S.C. 26 U. 76 Sunk.

WOLVERINE and SCARBOROUGH escorting Convoy S.C. 26 sank U.76 this morning in 58° 32' N., 20° 15' W, taking the captain and 41 officers and men prisoners.

H.M.T. VASCAMA on Northern Trawler Patrol attacked a S/M this morning 80 miles S.E. of Iceland, but without apparent success.

SUFFOLK, covering operation S.N. 8, sighted the periscope of a S/M this evening, 120 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath.

ASSINIBOINE damaged

ASSINIBOINE (escorting SS GLENARTNEY) was seriously damaged in collision early this morning with a merchant vessel in the North Channel

Visual R/C of Brest this morning reported the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still in the same berths.

3 German destroyers pass Dover Straits.

There were indications this evening that probably 3 German destroyers passed through the Straits of Dover at about 1900, possibly proceeding to Brest. Two M.T.B's were despatched from Dover to make contact with the enemy, but were unsuccessful in doing so.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Long range aircraft are now operating from Iceland.

49 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Brest last night and claim a hit with a 1900lb. bomb on one of the enemy battle cruisers.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 55 reported being attacked at 1611 off Withernsea no damage was caused.

Convoy E.C. 2 was bombed this evening off Buchan Ness and SS MARS arrived off Aberdeen at 2315 with U.X.B. on board, having been attacked twice off Aberdeen.

SS RATTRAY HEAD Sunk.

SS RATTRAY HEAD, a straggler from Convoy E.C. 2 was attacked and sunk at 2230 off Aberdeen.

SS ST CLEMENT Sunk.

SS ST CLEMENT sailing independently when attacked was bombed and sunk off the Ythan River (Aberdeenshire) this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation B.S. 53	TEVIOT BANK reported this operation completed at 1530 (see 4/4)
S.N. 8.	R.A.M. with 1st M.L.S. and 4 destroyers left Port Z.A. this morning to lay mines in the Iceland-Faeroes Passage. C.S. 2 in GALATEA with AURORA and C.S.1 in NORFOLK with SUFFOLK are covering the operation.
Mining of Thames Estuary	Extensive minelaying by enemy aircraft occurred last night from the Thames Estuary to the Humber and off Cornwall. There was considerable activity in the Shoeburyness- Sheppey area, when the positions of 22 mines were plotted.

Milford Haven was reopened at 1145 subject to local restrictions.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic
Two Italian and two Danish ships were taken over at Montevideo by the local authorities this morning.

Mediterranean

6 Wellingtons dropped 10,500 lbs of bombs on Tripoli harbour last night and report having hit the power station.

East Indies

It appears from air R/C that all merchant men except four at Massawa have been scuttled.
A destroyer lies submerged on her side 65 miles N.N.E. of Massawa; this may be one of the two Italian destroyers which are not yet accounted for.

America & West Indies

German communique states that VOLTAIRE (A.M.C) has been sunk by auxiliary cruiser.
PRINCE DAVID, proceeding to patrol off Para River (see 4/4) has been ordered to proceed along VOLTAIRE's track.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ARIGUANI
MAPLIN
PATIA
EMPIRE AUDACITY.

Fighter Catapult Ships ARIGUANI, MAPLIN, and PATIA and Auxiliary Aircraft Carrier EMPIRE AUDACITY are allocated to the command of C. in C. Western Approaches. (D.O.D. H. 1804/5.)

Londonderry not to be used as M/L Base.

Your 1416/30. Request 5th Flotilla may be transferred to Holyhead and next Flotilla available to Stornoway. It is not proposed to utilise Londonderry as an M/L operational base. (C. in C. W.A. 2140/5).

Movements.

S/Ms of 6th 7th., and 9th, Flotillas on leaving Biscay Patrol.

Submarines of 6th, 7th, and 9th Flotillas leave patrol after dark April 6th, and proceed submerged by day as follows. (Capt. S.5 0140/5 and Correction).

Operations.

Proposed operations.

A.C.N.S.(H) 0959/5 to C. in C. Nore. See Operations Volume.

East Coast Patrol.

No A.P. vessel at Sheringham buoy tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1003/5).

Iceland W/T Facilities.

With a view to increasing W/T navigational facilities in Iceland the following proposals have been made. 6. Request your remarks or any alternative proposals. (A.C.N.S. T. 1630/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.4.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Interception of SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

E.T.A. HOOD with three destroyers 0910/6.
(F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1845/5 to A.C.O.S.)
E.T.A. 0530/6 in SOMALI with BEDOUIN, MATABELE and MASHONA in company. Destroyers have instructions to rejoin C. in C. H.F. in 051° 022° W at 0900/9. Anticipated time of sailing 1600/7.
(Capt. D. 6 1930/5 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
Raise steam.
(1st S.L. 2306/5 to KENYA).
Steer towards 46° 00' N. 21° 30' W. at 15 knots.
(1st S.L. 2325/5 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).
HOOD is to proceed with despatch, fuel at Scapa and your route and speed.
(1st S.L. 2330/5 to B.C.1).
KENYA proceed north of Ireland at 20 knots to 50° N 20° W.
(1st S.L. 2357/5 to C.S. 10).

Interception of Six Enemy Destroyers.

Proceed with despatch to R/V with 5th D.F. and KIPLING in 130° Wolf Rock 10 miles. Report to Captain (D) 5. time at R/V and course you will steer to R/V after passing R/V steer 090°.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2315/5 to KELVIN).
Proceed with KIPLING to Redezvous with KELVIN and JACKAL in accordance with my 2315/5. Information six enemy destroyers sailed form Cape Blanc Nez steering 222° at 2215/5. Further instructions follow.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2325/5 to Capt. D. 5).

British Air Activity.

Attacks on Patrol Vessles and Trawlers.

Day 4/4. 8 Blenheims carried out a sweep off the Danish Coast North of Sylt but saw nothing to attack. 6 Blenheims swept the Coastline from Goulet Riec to Belle Isle two of these aircraft made beam attacks on a Trawler 3 miles West of the Ile de Groix scoring one direct hit amidships and several near misses. Two other aircraft attacked a similar Trawler in same position. Near misses observed. On the return journey one of these aircraft having no bombs left machine gunned 7

Incomplete?

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Attacks on Patrol Vessels and Trawlers. (cntd.)	Patrol vessels off Brest, apparently minesweeping. (H.Q.B.C. 0130/5).
Patrols.	My 1825/3. Para 4. Crossover only being carried out from 0245/6 to dawn as follows. (C. in C. Plymouth 0153/5). My 1825/3 paragraph (b) carry out from 0130/4 until dawn. (C. in C. Plymouth 0439/5 and 0709/5). Two Blenheims flying at an interval of 5 minutes apart will carry out a line patrol between 045° Muckle Flugga 15' and 045° Muckle Flugga 50' from 0600/6 until 0900/6 and again from 1400/6 to 1700/6. Object to intercept F.W. Aircraft. (C. in C. Rosyth 2312/5).
Escort.	Expect A/S air escort from 18 Group Sunderlands throughout daylight today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0222/5 to VANQUISHER, etc.)
Thames Estuary Dusk Patrols.	Your A267 4/4. Confirmed that Dusk Patrols can operate at Dusk over Thames Estuary above 5,000 feet without interference by A.A. Fire from special ships. It is pointed out that on clear nights during moonlight periods balloons of Thames Barrage may be flying up to 6,000 feet. (C. in C. Nore 1012/5 to H.Q.F.C.)
Bombing Restrictions on A/C from Iceland.	A. Long range aircraft are now operating from Iceland. T.B.R. are therefore to be imposed by you to cover the return route of submarines after they are detached from convoys and while within 600 miles of Iceland. Applications are to be addressed to H.Q.C.C. repeated C. in C. of the Areas concerned.

B. In the case.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Bombing Restrictions on A/C from Iceland. (contd).

B. In the case of submarines proceeding to a port in U.K. or Iceland instead of returning direct the necessary bombing restrictions will be applied for by F.O.(S) while you are absent from U.K. C. When more than 200 miles from the convoy on their return route S/Ms should report their position in order that the B.R. are not kept in force for an unduly long period. (F.O.S. 1131/5 to Capt. S.2.)

Offensive patrol, Ile de Re Ushant.

With the object of destroying enemy shipping two A/C of 53 Sq each armed with 4 X 250 GP bombs are to institute the following offensive patrol. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1150/5).

SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

Brest.
Rotterdam.
Nieuport.

On Night 4/5 a force of 49 aircraft again attacked the Battle Cruisers. Conditions were much more favourable than on the previous night. The ships could be seen while a certain amount of patchy cloud at 2/3000 ft. provided useful cover for the lower flying aircraft reports suggest that the objectives were fairly straddled by the majority of bombs, although many burst could not be seen. One Hampden attacking the Battle Cruiser in the dry dock from a low level claims a direct hit with a 1 900 lb. bomb while a Wellington bombing in a steep dive at 1,000 ft. straddled the Battle Cruiser alongside the quay. Many fires were started in the Dock area, notably one believed to be from a hit on a tanker. Flak from the ground was less than on previous occasions, but fire from the ships was again intense. Two other Blenheims of group 2 and 1 Wellington of 3 group attacked Nieuport Docks. No results were seen.
Rotterdam. Oil Storage. This target was attacked by 3 A/Cs. Results were not observed, although bombs seen to burst in target area.
(H.Q.B.C. 1834/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Search.

Admiralty 1935/5. Three Albacores leave Katston at daylight /6, to search an area between 360° and 315° from Muckle Flugga to as great a depth as endurance permits.
(C. in C. Rosyth. 2224/5.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SALVUS
(Bombed 4/4)

In F.N.49 hit by two bombs at 2100/4 in 53° 05' N. 01° 27' E. Broke in half and sank at 2245/4. PUFFIN with 33 survivors proceeding Humber.
(C. in C. Nore 0021/5 0105/5.)

Portsmouth bombed.

At 2300, 2 H.E. bombs were dropped 100 yds., east of 466 store at Frater. No damage or casualties. Some incendiaries round Courbet at Dolphins. At 0020 1 H.E. dropped 1 mile east of Horsesand Fort.
(C. in C. Portsmouth. 0120/5).

St. Merryn bombed Night 4/5.

Air Raid on night of 4/5 caused following damage.
(Supt. C.E. Devonport 1215/5).

FORTUNA
(Believed bombed 2/4)

Two Bodies washed ashore at Berwick have been identified as members of crew of FORTUNA. Loss of this vessel with all hands must now be accepted.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1256/5).

Convoy PLUMB.

1 airplane in sight of convoy. Position from centre of convoy is 53° 48' N 0° 32' E.
(Convoy PLUMB 1602/5).
1 enemy aircraft still over Convoy.
(Convoy PLUMB 1606/5)
My 1601. Heinkel machine gunning. No damage.
(Convoy PLUMB 1611/5).

Incendiary bombs.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Incendiary Bombs.	There is evidence that by new technique the enemy may in future drop very high concentrations of incendiary bombs. Arrangements to be made for reducing fire riskes. (Civil Lord 1654/5).

Mining.

Operation G.W.	Amend as follows. (C. in C. Plymouth 0005/5). Operation G.W. postponed until further orders. (C. in C. Plymouth 2353/5.)
S.N.8	Scapa departure C.S.2 in GALATEA with AURORA. (A.C.O.S. 0721/5).
Falmouth Area.	At 1605/3 Mine detonated in 210° Pulruan Coastguard Station 5 cables approx. (C. in C. Plymouth 0939/5).
Z.M.E.28	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1550 today, to lay at midnight, returning on completion about 0900 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1024/5).
Milford Haven.	Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1145/5).
P.W.7	M.T.B's will carry out operation P.W. (7) tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1224/5). My 1224/5. Operation P.W. 7 postponed due to weather. (C. in C. Nore 1901/5).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd.).

Thames Estuary.

There was considerable mining activity in Shoeburyness Sheppey Area during night 4th/5th April. Positions of twenty two mines have been plotted majority being within one mile of No. 2 Yantlet Buoy. Slight haze on surface of water otherwise clear night. Balloons were at 4,500 feet. First planes over appeared fairly low but most at estimated height of over 3000 feet. Their general route seemed to be on a south Westerly course over the Maplins, turning at the Eastern end of the balloon barrage and out over the Medway Channel. Planes were very difficult to see and ships fire though heavy was not thought to be very effective. Only one mine exploded prematurely. Some mines reported descending slowly with little splash, others fast with big splash. Descent through air in all cases was almost silent. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1854/5.).

S.S.53. Operation S.S.53 completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1530/5.).

Orfordness 3 explosions. Coast Guard Orfordness reports 1 heavy explosion followed by 2 light explosions heard bearing 163° 6 to 8 miles approx. Shingle Street. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5.).

Spurn Point. The following mine exploded at 1615/5 by S.A. Gear. (F.O. Humber 1855/5.).

Miscellaneous.

Re comprehension proposals. (A.C.N.S.H.) 1912/5.).

Enemy Intelligence.

TUNAHOLM.
VENEZUELA.
CAPELLA.
CASTOR.

My 1211/27 and 1643/4. (1) Swedish TUNAHOLM now due to sail from Gothenbury 7th also VENEZUELA who will be directed to follow same route.

HOME COMMANDS.

	Enemy Intelligence. (contd).
TUNAHOLM. VENEZUELA. CAPELLA. CASTOR.(contd).	(2) CAPELLA is not permitted by Germans to sail until arrival of CASTOR whose safety is now causing concern to Swedish authorities. They would be grateful if you have any information when she was last reported. (N.A. Stockholm 1147/5).
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU	Visual R/C of Brest this morning reports SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still in same berths. (D.D.I.C. 1154/5).
Enemy Trawler-type Vessels.	German vessels of the trawler type are known to be employed on weather reporting service. One or more are stationed in the Atlantic probably between 46° N. and 50° N. and 32° W. and 40° W. In addition to weather reports it is suspected that reports are made of passing shipping. One or more are also stationed in the vicinity of Jan Mayen Island. (D.D.I.C. 1650/5).
Six Enemy Destroyers in Straits of Dover.	There are indications that probably 6 German destroyers passed through the Straits of Dover at about 1900. It is possible they may be proceeding to Brest. (D.D.I.C. 2154/5) (F.O.S. 2322/5 to S/MS Area A.) Destroyers proceeded from the vicinity of Cape Blanc Nez at 2230, Course S.W. (D.D.I.C. 2307/5). My 2307/5. Three destroyers rounded Cape Gris Nez at 2253 steering 177° about 15 knots, and altered course to 194° at 2330. (D.D.I.C. 2350/5).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Military Convoys. Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.8	Following are proposed arrangements. (D. of S.T. 0415/5 to P.S.T.O. Clyde etc.)
Temporary instructions for Convoys passing through Irish Sea.	Ref. para 1 of your 0246/4., permission is urgently requested to sail O.B.M. 307 consisting of 17 ships Midday/6 otherwise five days delay is involved and relegation O to A slow convoy besides their being exposed to mine and other air danger during that period. (M.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1105/5. to C. in C. W.A.)
Navigation Lights.	Ships burning navigation lights in areas of bombing practice should switch them off immediately on approach of suspicious aircraft. (C. in C. W.A. 1112/5).
E.C. Convoys Code words.	Details of procedure to come into force with Convoy E.C.4. (D.T.D. 1121/5 to A.G.M.(Home) 214 AZ)
Responsibilities of C.Os.	Reports of proceedings show that Commanding Officers are not always aware of their responsibilities for the safe conduct of the convoy and its escorts. Steps are to be taken to bring to the notice of Officers concerned the full implications of Article 32 of C.B.04024 (40). (V.C.N.S. 1646/5 "A" Mge.)

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMILE FRANCQUI. (Grounded 3/4)	Your 2207. GLEANER and CHAMPION are to stand by EMILE FRANQUI and resume operation at Daylight. ANSTRUTHER life boats instructed to proceed to EMILE FRANCQUI now. (C. in C. Rosyth. 0100/5 to GLEANER). EMILE FRANQUI in tow of tug CHAMPION arrived Methil anchorage 2300/5. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2336/5).
ASSINIBOINE. LAIRDSWOOD.	Badly damaged by collision with LAIRDSWOOD at 0310. My position 055° 05' N. 005° 32' W. Am returning to harbour. (ASSINIBOINE 0315/5). My 0315/5. Damage as follows. No water abaft fore peak. Unable to anchor. LAIRDSWOOD reported damage not known and proceeding on her way. E.T.A. 1345. (ASSINIBOINE 0646/5).
BROADWATER.	Both evaporators and distillers out of action. Fresh water remaining for 34 hours. Making for Londonderry. My position 055° 51' N 021° 09' W. (BROADWATER 2100/5).
PETROBUS.	(British Tanker, 475 tons). Arrived Invergordon 1700/4 having been in collision with unknown surface vessel in 57° 36' N. 01° 33' W. at 0206/4. Have arranged to send vessel to Inverness to discharge cargo. and to effect temporary repairs. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1202/5).
LUDLOW	(Destroyer). F.O. i/c Invergordon's 1202/5 LUDLOW reports having sustained slight damag as result of collision with unknown ship at 0210/4 April and is undergoing temporary repairs which are expected to take two days. (C. in C. Rosyth 1818/5).
AYRSHIRE.	(A/S Trawler) Arrived. Steering gear broken down. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1821/5)
NAIAD.	My 1435/2. NAIAD delayed 48 hours due to defects. (F.O. 15th C.S. 2110/5).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OTUS	Admty 1413/4. (OLYMPUS & OTUS may be ordered to Malta after present duty.) Cancel reference to OTUS. (1st S.L. 0008/5 to OTUS, OLYMPUS). Return Gibraltar by same route diving by day. Adjust speed to pass through 030° 04' N 9005° W at 0700/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0410/5 to OTUS).
MIRROR	Departure KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting cable ship MIRROR in accordance with F.O.C. N.A. 1246/30/3. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE remaining in company until MIRROR enters territorial waters after completing repairs in approx position 4 miles Funchal. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0446/5).
MALVERNIAN CAMITO	MALVERNIAN 1930/4 not to CAMITO N.P.M. 267 not received. Your 1230/4. Request anticipated date when MALVERNIAN and CAMITO will have to leave patrol to fuel at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1326/5 to F.O.C.N.P.)
French shipping.	Gibraltar 1515/5 French minesweeper ENGAGEANTE. French ships KILISSI, CAVDEBEC, TADORNE, MINERVA, laden passed eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1615/5).
REPULSE	Request routeing instructions given to REPULSE and ships in company. (D.O.D. (M) 1628/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Policy of O.C.C.W. Africa.	If Vichy French attack Free French. (W.O. 1630/5) See Lion Copy.)
BRITANNIA survivors.	My 1347/3 (survivors in CABO DE HORNOS Consul Cadiz reports only 8 passengers and 20 merchant seamen have arrived Cadiz. Wounded and service personnel detained Teneriffe. Embassy taking appropriate actio (NA.Madrid. 1631/5)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

BRITANNIA survivors. (contd).	Teneriffe 1730/3. Re sinking of BRITTANIA (Internment of Naval Military personnel). Presume all necessary steps are being taken to obtain their release. (Head of M 1713/3 to N.A. Madrid.)
Escort for NARKUNDA.	My 1832/4. FURIOUS has joined REPULSE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/5)
Italian S/Ms movements.	Italian source value still unknown reports five large Italian submarines have left Gaeta for Lorient and Tripoli should pass Straits any moment. Four submarines left Italy 2/4 for Dodecanese. (N.A. Madrid 1845/5)
Yugoslav shipping	Hope that if Yugoslavia is attacked, Yugoslav ship owners will be willing to order their vessels to make for nearest British port. Yugoslav ships at Lisbon should proceed with all despatch to Gibraltar. (Head of M. 1913/5 to N.A. Lisbon).
Re reporting.	Your 1849/4. A. This is being done. B. 19 Group R.A.F. will adopt procedure desired. (C. in C. Plymouth 1951/5 to S.O. Force H.)
SAVONA TRAPANI (German)	3/4 SAVONA left for Italy TRAPANI arrived here. (Valencia. 2045/5).
Orders to Force H	Raise steam. (1st S.L. 2220/5).
Orders to Force H & FIJI.	If you fuelled after WINCH and are still at sea, proceed at 20 knots to Westward, FIJI following you as soon as ready. If in harbour proceed to Westward as soon as ready There are indications that German battle-cruisers may leave Brest Sunday night. (1st S.L. 2311/5 to F.O. Force H.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CABO VILLANO (survivors of CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS torpedoed 21/3)

N.A. Madrid's 1923/3. In view of likelihood of these survivors being from BRITANNIA, presume you will do all you can to intercept ship to prevent their internment in Buenos Aires.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0007/5 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0007/5/4. Signal from CABO VILLANO to PETER KEBB intercepted and quoted in S.O.(I) Freetown 1137/2 stated 24 survivors were from CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS. N.A. Madrid (?0745/2/4) states survivors were from same two ships, informant Spanish Minister of Marine. British Consul St. Vincent reports signal from CABO VILLANO to same effect also. Request information if any information to suggest that these survivors are from BRITANNIA.
(C. in C. S.A. 1043/5 to Admty).
Your 1043/5.No.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2152/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

Italian & Danish ships taken over.

At 0830 local time today, Italian ships FAUSTO ADAMELLO were boarded by Uruguay Naval Police. ½ hour later police boarded the two Danish Ships C.H.R. SASS and LAURA.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1304Z/5).
Crews are being removed.
(N.C.S.O. (I) Montevideo 1514Z/5).

VOLTAIRE German Claim.

German official communique this morning states British Auxiliary Cruiser VOLTAIRE as well as BRITANNIA sunk by German Auxiliary Cruiser. Have you any information.
(D.D.I.C. 1806/5 1502/5 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. A.M.I.)
Have no information.
(C. in C. S.A. 1548/5)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

RAVENNA)
VERACE)
MULTIDO.)

Unconfirmed report states these Italian ships, all armed by Ignazio Messina and Co., have been lost. (D.S. 578, 5/4.).

X.1575. A.486. Your X. 728 4/4. 6 Beauforts for Malta personnel mentioned not repeat not reached Malta. If Beauforts sent now will naturally attempt to operate them but prospects of doing so without personnel not rosy. Proposals. (H.Q. Malta 1020/5. to Air Min.).

Assisted take off gear.

Great value of assisted take off gear has been conclusively demonstrated during FORMIDABLE's recent operations within the fleet. Enabled great majority of fighter take offs, to take place without interference to the Fleet's movements. (C. in C. Med., 1041/5.).

War material for Greek factories.

Loss of NORTHERN PRINCE is very serious for Greek powder factories.
3. Request urgent consideration to practicability of shipping proportion of each of lost supplies in CACHALOT C in C. Med. 1239/5.

Air Operations.
OLYMPUS.

Proposing certain operations. (C. in C.Med. 1339/5.). See Mediterranean Volume.
Re operating her. (V.A. Malta 1351/5.). See Mediterranean Volume.

OLYMPUS.

0159/5 not to Capt. S.1. OLYMPUS should proceed Malta for water and hence patrol off Benghazi as ordered by Capt. S.1. (C. in C. Med. 1401/5, to V.A. Malta.).

VITTORIO VENETO.

It is reported that VITTORIO VENETO arrived Taranto having been hit by two torpedoes. C.2. (D.D.I.C. 1846/5.).

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Mining of Suez Canal.	Questions. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1847/5 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.).
Sponge fishing ships.	Seven Sponge fishing ships arrived 1200 from Benghazi. (S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk 1941/5)
PROTEK.	Discussion of Admiral Godfrey's proposal that PROTEK should go to Indo-China (1st. L. 2043/5.). See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Re Regent of Iraq.

Your 1865/4. Consider if COCKCHAFER leaves Basra with Regent his cause will be predjudiced and situation aggravated. Also consider situation at Basra Station of sufficient gravity to demand presence of Warship. (N.O.I.C. Basra, 0020Z/5, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.).
Your 0020Z/5. FALMOUTH proceed Basra to embark Regent COCKCHAFER sails for outer Bar immediately after transfer.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0355Z/5, to N.O.I.C. Basra.).
Your 1730Z/4 and 0020Z/5, inform me if representative of H.M. Govt. has any concrete proposal for disposition of personnel concerned. Point out to him the governing fact that H.M. Ships may be used to convey such persons to a safe place but must not be used as bases for political activity. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1645Z/5. to N.O.I.C. Basra.).

German Unit.

My 0716/4. D/F of a German target at 1617Z /4 gives a position within 600 miles of 035° S. 040° E. Above position very indefinite. The main inference to be drawn is that there are two German surface units at present in S.W. Indian Ocean. (C. in C.E.I 0028Z/5, to E.I., Sqdn.).

Italian Destroyers.

My 2340/4 para. 1 (b) Italian destroyer CESARE BATTISTI sailed in company with Italian destroyers PANTERA TIGRE DANIELE MANIN and NAZARIO SAURO, (from Massawa on 2/4.). (C. in C. E.I., 0304z/5, to Admty.).

U.S.10.

Your 1147/1 and 1613/2. Possible service for which TAKLIWA, SLAMAT, PRESIDENT DOUMER, KHEDIVE ISMAIL and ships intended for U.S.10 could now be used are as follow
(D.S.S. 0414/5 to P.S.T.O's Egypt, Bombay.

/Cables.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Cables. Your 1846/2. Concur as regards East Indies communications. Is it intended to (A) Lay Aden/Berbera cable. (B) Relay Aden/Djibouti cable should French Somaliland become Free French? Both are desirable but neither essential from a Naval Point of view. (C. in C. E.I., 0530/5, to C. in C. Med.).

Fuel Supply Seychelles. My 0022/5/4. (Presence of German surface units.) In view of indications of enemy units in Indian Ocean demands for fuel in Seychelles and Mauritius areas may be considerable. Situation there gives me some concern owing to small capacity of APPLELEAF and (?low) endurance of Force T. Request a loaded commercial tanker may be diverted to Seychelles now. PEARLEAF must be retained for the present in Ceylon area available for use ADDU ATOLL or DIEGO GARCIA if hunt goes east. (C. in C. E.I., 0712Z/5, to Admty.).

DUNERA. Your 2117/4. Consider definitely unsuitable for conveyance of Mechanical Transport or cargo. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0915Z/5 to D. of S.T.).

Air Operations. Night 3/4 April. A.815 5/4. X.1556.
4 Wellingtons dropped 6250 lbs. bombs on Tripoli harbour hitting W/T Station, and starting large fire, here, and at base of Eastern Mole etc.
3/3. Photographic R/C Durazzo.

Attacks on Italian destroyers off Port Sudan. 4. Amplifying details of air attack on Italian destroyers off Port Sudan on 3/4. Blenheim R/C reported 3 Italian destroyers left Massawa 1/4 of which 1 ran aground Nocra Island and 2nd returned Massawa presumably with rescued crew of first. 2nd. Blenheim r/c., reported further 5 destroyers left Massawa 2/4 1 of which returned and was unsuccessfully bombed by Blenheim off Massawa early morning 3/4. F.A.A. Swordfish subsequently located 4 destroyer 30 miles east Port Sudan sinking 1 by torpedo and damaging a second which was afterwards bombed and sunk by , Blenheims. The remaining 2 destroyers made off. in direction of

/direction.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

direction Jedda but during afternoon Wellesleys located them aground 12 miles south Jedda and bombed them in co-operation with KINGSTON. Blenheims subsequently made a further attack registering direct hits on both destroyers and setting one on fire. 2 Wellesleys lost, crews saved. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1226/5.).

DURMITOR (Yugoslav.) — Your 1001/1. (N.T. in M.R.). DURMITOR notice of requisition served 1100/4. Survey held, and following for your information. (S.N.O.T.D., Mombasa, 1402Z/5, to Admty.).

Air R/C. Massawa. — My 2340/4. (1) Air R/C of Massowa a.m./5, Visual report 4 ships have been scuttled and sunk. Three in entrance to Khor Dekliyat one in entrance to main harbour (II) No further information of ORSARS BATTISTI and VINCENZO G. ORSINI obtained. (C. in C. M.I. 1434Z/5.).

R/C of MASSAWA. — My 1434/5. Massowa p.m. Air R/C 5/4 shows in addition (i) One Destroyer on her side submerged with only davits showing in 016° 35' 039° 40'name not yet known (ii) All merchant Vessels scuttled and sunk except four (iii) Above is from visual report Photographs are awaited. (C. in C. E.I., 1956Z/5.) See 0328/8. re destroyers sunk.

China.

BUFFALO mined. — At 2340Z/4 Mooring Vessel BUFFALO when proceeding with Salvage Party and led by surveying boat to salve a crashed aircraft. off Singapore fouled a mine on extreme edge of Minefield blew up and sank.

/Casualties....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China Contd.

BUFFALO mined.	Casualties will be signalled.(C. in C. China, 0315/5, to Admty.). Further details. (C. in C. China 1133Z/5.).
RAMSES FURIERE CONSOLONI.	Kobe arrival 3/4 German RAMSES. My 0711/27 /3, additional Italian Ship is FURIERE CONSOLONI. Trader for Yamashita. (C.O.S. Singapore 0406Z/5.).

America & West Indies.

NANGKAI (Dutch) SIMNIA (tanker) ROYAL CROWN. MYSON. SARDINIAN PRINCE. SILVER FIR. RIO DORADO. ATHELFOAM EMPIRE INDUSTRY.	Overdue, now presumed captured or sunk by raiders on 15/3 and 16/3. (D.S. 578, 5/4).
Re sinking of VOLTAIRE.	Your 1502/5 (see South Atlantic). Reply no. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1132/5, to Adty.).
Orders to PRINCE DAVID.	Steer 025° at best possible speed. Further orders follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1211/5, to PRINCE DAVID.). My 1211/5. German communique states VOLTAIRE sunk by auxiliary cruiser. Date and time unknown. Proceed best possible speed to search along VOLTAIRE's track. VOLTAIRE, should have been in 015° N.,040° W., about daylight/4, altering from course 58° to 117° in this position. Speed 14 knots. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1212/5.).

/Routing.....

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Routing of H.M.Ships to cover convoys.	Your 1121/3. This will be done in future whenever circumstances permit. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1410/5. to C. in C. A.W.I.).
U.S.S.R. VATSLAV VOROVSKI.	Went ashore Columbia River bar 3/4)cargo and vessel total loss. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1434/5.).
SOUTHGATE sighting LACONIA, 16/3.	Your 1805/2 and N.C.S.O. St. John's N.B. 1705/2. It appears that LACONIA did not carry out the procedure laid down in A.C.M. 640A of 25/12. Request you will take such action as you consider necessary to draw attention to this. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1816/5. to R.A.3.).

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

U. BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

Your 1151/4. Bearings from U.K. place this U/B in approx. 58° N., 23° W. Bearing from Bermuda evidently inaccurate. (D.D.I.C. 0109/5, to C. in C. A.W.I.).

0412. D/F at 0412 B.S.T. U/B in area 54° N., to 55° N., 24° W., to 26° W. (D.D.I.C. 0449/5.).
It is possible that a U-Boat will pass Muckle Flugga westbound between midnight and dawn. (D.D.I.C. 1935/5.).

2120 GMT/4. Adty., mge AF Position 8 R 15 N., 14B,15 W., at 2120 G.M.T./4. (C. in C. S.A.1938/5.).

2026
By SUFFOLK. One enemy Submari e bearing 050° distance 1 mile course unknown. My position 59° 52' N., 8° 9' W.x(SUFFOLK 2026/5.).
My 2026 periscope plainly visible submarine probably following merchant ships whom I will order to alter course my position now is 059° 49' N., 008° 14' W.
(SUFFOLK 2036/5.).x based on reference at 2000.

1926.
G.M.T. Reference Admty., mge.,AF, position 59° 52' N., 8° 09' W., at 1926/5 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 2112/5.).

2026. U-boat sighted in 059° 53' N., 006° 08' W., at 2026/5. (C. in C. W.A. 2155/5.).
Estimated U Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1415/5.).

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

By VASCAMA. One enemy submarine in position 63.08N., 14.00 W. (VASCAMA, 0835/5 to Lyness W/T.).
My position 63.08 N., 14.00 W., S.06 obtained contact. Echo showing pronounced doppler. Fired one pattern.
Am still in contact.
(VASCAMA, 0900/5, to S.O.T.N.P.
Lost contact searching area, my position 63.03N., 13.54W. X 06. (VASCAMA,0930/5, to S.O.T.N.P.).

By WOLVERINE and SCARBOROUGH. U.76 sunk. WOLVERINE and SCARBOROUGH attacked U.73 (Sic in position 058° 32' N., 020° 15' W. U-boat brought to surface and ARBUTUS tried to take her in tow but U-boat sank 0950. WOLVERINE has Captain Von Hippel and 3 other Officers and 36 crew. SCARBOROUGH and ARBUTUS 1 survivor each. (HAVELOCK 1045/5 to C. in C. W.A.).
Confirmation from prisoner stating number of U-boat was 76 not 73. (ARBUTUS 1600/5.).

At 2237. A/S Vessel reported attacking contact in 055° 006' 005° 29' W., at 2237.
(Liverpool W/T 2312/5.).

MOST SECRET.

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U - BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

S.C.26. LEONIDAS WESTPOOL Survivors.	My course 115° 7 knots. TENAX in company. Endeavouring to join VETERAN. Have 29 survivors of LEONIDNAS and one from WESTPOOL.(HESPERUS 0700/5.).
S.C.26. ATHENIC (torpedoed 4/4.).	My 1045/5 and your 2327/4. ARBUTUS steering gear damaged temporarily. WOLVERINE standing by. SCARBOROUGH and HAVRLOCK joined S.C.26. Area round ATHENIC's position thoroughly searched without trace. (HAVELOCK, 1055/5. to C.in C. W.A.).
ATHENIC LIGURIA survivors.	Have picked up 38 crew total survivors ATHENIC now sunk also 10 survivors ex LIGURIA and navigation officer from U 73. At least 6 hospital cases on board. Arriving Liverpool. (ARBUTUS 1536/5.).
BEAVERDALE (torpedoed 1/4.)	Report received from Icelandic Trawler that 33 survivors from BEAVERDALE picked up. Two more lifeboats 23 men each believed between 060° 50' N., 029° 40' W., and in S.W.Iceland. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1606/5, to Admty.).
MARLENE.	Ship sunk probably by S/m in 008° 15' N., 014° 17' W., at 2115/4. (C. in C. S.A. 1936/5.). This was MARLENE, see 6/4.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Watch for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

The movement of German destroyers down channel, reported yesterday, was considered by the Admiralty to indicate that the enemy battle cruisers may be leaving Brest soon.
The following dispositions were made:-
Capt. D. 5 (KELLY) to proceed with KIPLING to R/V with KELVIN and JACKAL off Wolf Rock to cover Dartmouth-Falmouth convoy during the night. The destroyers returned to Plymouth at 0807/6 and sailed at 1855/6 for Ile de Bas.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, on passage to Halifax to steer towards 46° N., 21° 30' W., to be joined by REPULSE who is to be relieved by LONDON (with C. in C., H.F.) as escort for FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA.

HOOD, on passage to Scapa (arrived 0815/6) to fuel and return to patrol in the Biscay area. She left Scapa at 1946/6 with 3 destroyers.

KENYA, in the Clyde, sailed at 0432/6 to join C. in C., H.F. (KING GEORGE V) off the Bay of Biscay.

Force H left Gibraltar at 0030/6 with FIJI and 3 destroyers and proceeded towards 41° N., 16° 30' W.

C. in C. Home Fleet is to take all the above forces under his orders.

The submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay was to have been reduced from 14 to 4 submarines this evening, but the return of all submarines except two is to be postponed unless shortage of fuel necessitates return.

/All destroyers....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

All destroyers in Portsmouth, Nore and Dover areas, not employed on defence of trade, to have steam at immediate notice by 1900/6, all M.T.B's to concentrate at Dover armed with torpedoes, in case the enemy battle cruisers should pass up Channel.

PERNIE, WIVERN and CLEVELAND to patrol 5 to 15 miles north of Le Havre, tonight. The enemy destroyers entered Cherbourg at 0720.
At 1230 they were reported in the chops of the Channel. They were attacked by Coastal Command aircraft who report having torpedoed one in 48° 45' N., 4° 20' W; it is not known whether the enemy vessel sank.
R/C at 1830 today showed GNEISENAU had left dry dock and was in Rade d'Abri with tanker and tugs alongside; and SCHARNHORST alongside T.B. station with torpedo nets still in position.

Nore A/P

To meet the present shortage of A/P vessels C. in C. Nore has authorised a reduction in the number of A.P. trawlers and drifters on patrol in his command.

Atlantic convoys to have A/S escort to 35° W.

A redistribution of escort forces in Western Approaches is to take place, to provide escorts to about 35° W for all H.X., S.C. and appropriate O.B. convoys, commencing with O.B. 312, S.C. 28 on 19/4. (See C. in C. W.A. 1203/6).

COMORIN destroyer.

A.M.C. COMORIN carrying military personnel for Freetown and providing ocean escort for S.S. GLENARTNEY (carrying military stores for Suez) caught fire at 1400 today in 54° 34' N 21° 20' W and had to be abandoned later and torpedoed and sunk by BROKE. The latter sustained damage, presumably when rescuing survivors.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled on account of the weather.

Air patrols were maintained off Brest almost continuously during today.

Enemy Air Activity

SS ANDONI

SS ANDONI was attacked this afternoon between the Longships and Lizard and had casualties but does not report any damage.

SS GLENFINLAS damaged.

Convoy F.S. 55 was unsuccessfully attacked at 1055 off Orfordness SS GLENFINLAS was bombed and damaged at 1230 G.M.T. off Orfordness. She was taken in tow and bombed again at 1329.

SS OLGA S sunk

OLGA S sailing independently was bombed and sunk this morning in 55° 48' N., 9° 45' W. (60 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland)

N. ZOGRAFIA damaged

NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA reported being bombed in 57° 10' N., 11° 52' W., at 0933. Another report says the ships was hit by two aircraft torpedoes.

SS DUNSTAN sunk.
BOADICEA

SS DUNSTAN in convoy O.B. 306 was bombed at 1059 in 58° 57' N., 8° 26' W (70 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis) BOADICEA, standing by her was bombed this afternoon, but was not hit. DUNSTAN sank later.

/KOROT II....

MOST SECRET

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6.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

KOROT II and three other fishing trawlers were attacked off Buchan ness tonight, but no apparent damage was caused other than slight machine gun damage. Faroese trawler NAREABERG KG 14 was sunk at 1100 in approx. 60° 30' N., 5° 30' W.

SS EMPIRE SAILOR Damaged.

WINDERMERE and EMPIRE SAILOR are reported to have been attacked this afternoon off the Butt of Lewis. The latter appears to have been slightly damaged.

WALLCE and convoy F.N. 50 were bombed at 1439 off Harwich; no ships were hit.

HASTINGS and convoy E.N. 95 were ineffectively bombed at 2127 off Aberdeen.

Trawler CALIPH reports unsuccessful attack at 2230 off the Smalls.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation Z.M.E. 28

PLOVER last night laid mines in the St. Georges Channel.

S.N. 8.

R.A. (M) reported this operation completed at 1829/6.

Enemy aircraft minelaying took place in the Thames Estuary last night.

TORRENT sunk.

H.M.Y. TORRENT was mined and sunk today off Falmouth.

Several mines were detonated off Milford Haven today.

Mediterranean

Germany declares war on Greece and Yugoslavia

Germany announced early today that a state of war existed with Greece and Yugoslavia.
The Admiralty have instructed F.O.C.N.A. that no Jugoslav ships should be allowed to pass into the Mediterranean. All Yugoslav ships have been instructed to proceed immediately to an Allied or neutral port.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

East Coast Patrols.	Number of A/P Trawlers and Drifters on Patrol may be reduced to meet present shortage of vessels available. Vessels should however as far as possible patrol in pairs to meet possible enemy action. (C. in C. Nore 1051/6).
Northern Patrol.	Suggest T.R. Trawler patrol lines be moved about 60 miles south west of their present position so that Trawlers on these patrols will be near convoy route to south east of Iceland. (C. in C. W.A. 1947/6).

Movements.

DUNEDIN	DUNEDIN is to remain at Plymouth until further orders. (1st S.L. 0022/6).

Operations.

Interception of SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU	Continue in execution of present orders. Further instructions will follow. (1st S.L. 0011/6 to REPULSE.) Your 2306/5. KENYA ready to proceed 0345. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0024/6). 1. Movement of German destroyers down channel indicates that battlecruisers may sail shortly, earliest probable time being night of 6/4. 2. Movements have been ordered as in my 2311/5, 2325/5, 2330/5, 2357/5 and 0011/6. 3. Request you will take all forces under your orders and report to Admiralty what dispositions you desire, passing your message to Scapa by W/T, using your special W/T set. Admiralty will then broadcast your instructions. 4. If no signal is received from you by 1200 B.S.T./6 it will be assumed that you do not desire to break W/T silence even on your special W/T set. Admiralty will then order dispositions. (1st S.L. 0041/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Sailed C.S. 10 in KENYA in accordance with Admty 2357/5. (N.O.I.C., Greenock 0432/6)

Scapa arrival B.C.S. 1 in HOOD, ELECTRA, ESCAPADE and TARTAR. (A.C.O.S. 0815/6)

Arrived SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MASHONA, MATABELE at 0600/6. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1035/6)

Admty 2330/5. Intend to leave Scapa in HOOD with ZULU, MAORI and ARROW at 2100, passing through 58° 40' N., 008° W., thence to 050° N., 020° W., speed of advance 15½ knots. C. in C., Rosyth and C. in C., W.A. are requested to provide A/S air escort on 7th and 8th April Code word REBEL. If destroyers require fuel they will be detached to Londonderry to await for further orders. (B.C.S. 1 1231/6)

All available M.T.B's are to be prepared for immediate service armed with torpedoes. (A.C.N.S. H. 1446/6)

My 0041/6. Para 4. Battlecruisers are believed to be still in Brest. After today submarine patrol must diminish in numbers rapidly owing to their endurance.
2. Assuming battlecruisers leave Brest at dusk on 6th, it is hoped they will be detected by submarine and/or shore based air reconnaissance at daylight/7.
3. C. in C., H.F. is requested to detach LONDON forthwith to R.V. in daylight/7 with REPULSE, who passes through 41° N., 22° W., at 1300/7 course 360°. LONDON is to relieve REPULSE as escort for FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA; REPULSE is to proceed to R/V with QUEEN ELIZABETH. KENYA is to proceed to join KING GEORGE V; all other units as already ordered.

/4.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

4. KING GEORGE V and Force H are to maintain positions from which they can bring the enemy to action in daylight/7 if located.
5. At 0800/8 units are to be in the following positions:
HOOD 54° N., 15° 30' W.
KING GEORGE V and KENYA 50° N., 21° W.
QUEEN ELIZABETH and REPULSE R/V in 46° N.,21° W.
LONDON escorting FURIOUS, ARGUS and MARKUNDA steaming North on meridian 23° W.
Force H maintaining position near 41° N., 16° 30' W.
6. VELOX is to return to Gibraltar, other destroyers to remain in company with heavy units as long as possible, fuelling at sea if desirable.
Oiler CAIRNDALE and submarine PANDORA are in position 32° 30' N., 32° 30' W.
8. All times are zone - 1 which is to be used in all signals for this operation.
9. On receipt of this signal all forces referred to above come under the orders of C. in C., H.F. who will take any action necessary. (1st S.L. 1529/6, A.C.N.S. (H) 2300/6)
Your 1930/5. SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MATABELE and MASHONA are to complete with fuel and proceed to rejoin C. in C. H.F. in 50° N., 21° W. at 1200/8. (1st S.L. 1534/6)
A.M. 1529/6. Request you will operate 5th D.F. so as to intercept enemy Battle Cruisers if they endeavour to proceed East up the English Channel and to shadow them should they steer to the westward from Brest. DUNEDIN is to be retained at Plymouth. (1st S.L. 1542/6 to C. in C., Plymouth)
All destroyers not employed on defence of trade are to have steam at immediate notice by 1900/6 and be ready to proceed to sea if enemy leaves Brest. (A.C.N.S. H. 1617/6)
A,M, 1446/6. All available M.T.Bs are to concentrate at Dover forthwith and are to be operated by V.A.Dover in event of German Battlecruisers now at Brest endeavouring to pass East up the Channel (A.C.N.S. H. 1618/6)

/Admty.1542/6....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Admty. 1542/6. Primary object is to intercept and attack enemy battle cruisers should they proceed Eastwards.
2. Should information show enemy is proceeding westwards endeavour to gain touch and shadow.
3. EXECUTION Proceed with 5th D.F. to arrive at 048° 50' N., 004° 25' W., by 2230/6.
Then patrol between longitude 004° 25' W. and longitude Ushant. Failing other information leave patrol at 0430/7 and return to Plymouth.
4. Own force. S/M L.27 proceeding up channel estimated 30 miles north of Ushant 1600/6.
A.S.V. fitted with aircraft are carrying out following cross over patrol.
(a) 048° 25' N., 006° 05' W., and 047° 20' N 005° W.
(b) 048° 40' N., 006° W and 048° 40' N., 005° 10' W., from 2030/6 till 0030/7.
(C. in C., Plymouth, 1725/6 to Capt. D.5.)
Sailed 1855 KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL, KIPLING. (C. in C., Plymouth 1941/6)
Own destroyers have left Plymouth to arrive vicinity of Ile De Bas 2230/6 to attack Battle Cruisers should they leave Brest and proceed Eastward, or to shadow should they proceed Westward.
(F.O.S., 1941/6 to S/Ms Area A)
Scapa departure F.O.C. 1 B.C.S. in HOOD, ZULU, MAORI, and ARROW. (A.C.O.S. 1946/6)
Admty. 1529 and 1813. If local escort available HURRICANE could fuel at Londonderry and join HOOD daylight/8 with 82% fuel remaining. My P.C. and S 056° 34' N., 011° 36' W., 110° 10 knots.
(HURRICANE 2100/6 to C. in C., W.A.)
A. Should enemy battlecruisers be reported at sea it is not my present intention to order submarines to concentrate on their line of advance since by an alteration of course enemy might thus pass through a gap in our patrols.
B. Own heavy ships are operating well to Westward of submarines and it is important therefore that submarines sighting the enemy should report as soon as possible after completion of attack.
(F.O.S., 2147/6 to S/Ms on Patrol)

/My 1617/6....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

My 1617/6. 20th Flotilla is to be prepared for minelaying tomorrow Monday night. Request you will watch the French Coast in the vicinity of Cap La Hague with remaining destroyers tonight Sunday in case German Battle Cruisers come east. (1st S.L. 2319/6 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Interception of Enemy Destroyers.

Sailed KELLY and KIPLING 0012/6. (C. in C., Plymouth 0027/6.) Latest information enemy destroyers proceeded from Cape Blanc Nez., at 2225, increased to full speed at 2343 course 191° possibly for Cherbourg. Torpedo bombing attack not possible. After rendezvousing cover Dartmouth-Falmouth convoy, and return to Plymouth to arrive 0700/6. (C. in C., Plymouth 0031/6 to D.5)

East Coast Patrols

Tonight following A.P. positions will not be filled. A. Sheringham Buoy. B. 5 Buoy to Hearty Knoll. (C. in C., Nore, 0955/6)

My 0900. Patrols have taken up alternative positions. (N.O.I.C., Brightlingsea. 1344/6) All patrols sheltering in harbour. (N.O.I.C., Brightlingsea 1830/6)

Channel Patrol

INTREPID, ICARUS, CLEVELAND, FERNIE and JERSEY will patrol between longitudes of Nab Tower and Portland Bill South of 50° 15' N., between 2000/6 and 0000/7. JERSEY will be detached so as to arrive Plymouth 0700/7. Policy shoot at sight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Search for Enemy Destroyers.

Six enemy Destroyers were reported in the Dover Straits P.M. 5/4 proceeding West. Later reports indicate that three may have left the Force. The Force may be proceeding to Brest.
Six aircraft 53 Squadron to search in line abreast at visibility distance from 48° 43' N., 4° 18' W., to 49° 30' N., 2° 13'W If force sighted aircraft to attack and report. Aircraft to leave first position at 0600 hours 6/4. Armament 2 500 S.A.P. Own submarines may be in area.
(A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 0217/6 to St. Eval) CH/G2/6/4/41 CJAY.2. Available A/C of 59 Sqdn. are to attack the destroyers in Cherbourg reported by J/59 this morning, but only if weather conditions are suitable.
(CHATHAM A.C.H.Q., 0845/6 to Thorney Island)

Escort

Expect Escort 18 group Whitleys from 1130 until dark tonight. (C. in C., Rosyth 0806/6 to VANQUISHER etc.)

Patrols

Air Patrols today. UNST STAB BERT STAND HORNLI. (C. in C., Rosyth 0810/6)
2 Blenheims will fly chain patrol Bass Rock to Bell Rock 1130 to 1330 also one Harrow Cross, Forth, Fifeness to St. Abbs Head 1200 to 1200 (C. in C., Rosyth 0946/6)

Information is required whether enemy shipping proceeding up channel by night. It is thought that movements eastward of Cape Gris Nez are by day only but that vessels may make this point from westward shortly before or at daylight. With effect from 7/4 and dependent upon whether conditions are suitable for attacks by M.T.Bs., one aircraft is to carry out a R/C for surface craft between 2100 - 0100 hours in the following area: 50° 35' N., 1° 53' E., 50° N., 0° E., 50° N., 1° E., 50° N., 1° E. Two circuits to be flown. Sighting of surface vessels to be reported by W/T. (Chatham Broadcast 1527/6)

/TRIBUNE.....

MOST SECRET

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

TRIBUNE	Request T.B.R. for TRIBUNE (? parting company) with H.K. 117 in daylight/6. TRIBUNE is to report when more that 200 miles from convoy her P.C. and S. T.B.R. will be in force within 600 miles of Iceland. (R.A. 3 1208/6)
812 Squadron Six Aircraft in ARGUS.	Six aircraft of 812 Squadron are to embark in ARGUS for temporary service. Aircraft should be at Abbotsinch by 11/4. Requisite proportions of Squadron personnel and stores are to be embarked on the same day. (5th S.L. 1225/6)
Interception of SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.	Consider enemy Battle Cruisers will probably leave Brest tonight or in immediate future. Request maximum possible scale of air R/C be arranged designed to detect and then shadow the enemy if he leaves Brest. (1st S.L. 1535/6 to H.Q.C.C.)
Movement of Flight to Roborough.	O/426 6/4 reference Admiralty 1950/4 of 4/4/41. Request "D" Flight 2 A.M.C.U. be moved forthwith to Roborough. Fighter Command willing to accept this commitment Request advice as to when move will be completed. (A.O. Air Ministry, Whitehall, 1615/6 to H.Q., 17 Group C.C.)
Bombing Restriction	My 1725. Request bombing restrictions. (C. in C., Plymouth 1825/6 to H.Q.C.C.)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

ST. CLEMENT	(British) 450 tons) N.O.i/c Aberdeen reports fishing trawler BOMBAY arrived Aberdeen 0015/6 with 10 survivors from ST. CLEMENT bound from Kirkwall to Aberdeen in convoy W.N. 9. (C. in C., Rosyth 0325/6) About 2150/5. ST CLEMENT proceeding independently when in 57° 19' N., 10° 50' W. was attacked by one aircraft. No direct hits, two near misses with H.E. Bombs and machine gunned. Ship sank almost immediately. Chief engineer missing. 10 survivors. No casualties picked up from two ships boats. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1118/6)
MARS	(Dutch 1582 tons) Arrived off Aberdeen 2315/5 with unexploded bomb on board. Vessel will enter harbour on morning tide. Bomb safety officer aboard. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 0350/6)
Convoy E.N. Even	Fighter assistance despatched to convoy MISSION. (Lyness W/T 0637/6 and 0845/6)
NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA.	(Greek, 7156 tons) Bombed in 57° 10' N. 11° 52' W. (Valentia 0933/6.) In 056° 56' N., 012° 17' W., 31 survivors recovered. NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA hit by 2 aircraft torpedoes at 0830/6. Ship is afloat and considered salvageable by tug. (ESKIMO 1615/6) Proceed forthwith to assist. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1645/6 to ASSURANCE, RESTIVE) Sailed ASSURANCE, RESTIVE 1800/6. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1910/6) 31 survivors of NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA rescued by ESKIMO. Tugs being sent. Unless (? weather) permits you standing by damaged ship until daylight return to Londonderry (C. in C., W.A. 2047/6 to BROADWATER) R/V withescort at 0800 tomorrow in 56° 05' N., 09° 20' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2130/6 to RESTIVE, ASSURANCE.)

/Detach one...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

NICOLAOUS ZOGRAFIA. -Contd.

Detach One ship at daylight to meet tugs and ASSURANCE and RESTIVE proceeding to assist NICOLAOU ZAGRAFIA. (C. in C. W.A., 2131/6 to VETERAN.).
My 1615. Nothing further found. Am proceeding Greenock with 31 survivors. N.T.A. 1120/7. (ESKIMO 2135/6.).

Convoy F.S.55.

Enemy Aircraft bombing Convoy PLUMB in 52° N., 1° 44' E. (Spare Convoy 1055/6.).
My 1055- M E 110. 4 Bombs. No hits. (Spare Convoy 1058/6.).
Fighters have been sent to Convoy PLUMB. (Nore W/T 1105/6.).

DUNSTAN.

(British, 5149 Tons) Bombed in 59° 09' N., 8° 22' W. (Portishead W/T 1059/6.).
Sail ZWARTE ZEE and BRIGAND in company with all despatch to assist DUNSTAN. BOADICEA standing by. DUNSTAN may be proceeding slowly towards Loch Ewe. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1526/6 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).
Stand by DUNSTAN. 2 tugs should arrive shortly after daylight/7 escort them back to Minches when DUNSTAN is in tow. (C. in C. W.A. 1903/6 to LADY MADELEINE.).

STAFFORDSHIRE. (Bombed 28/3.).

Has been reflosted. Ship now considered in no danger. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1119/6.).

RATTRAY HEAD Sunk.

(British, 496 tons) RATTRAY HEAD, cargo bricks, joined from Methil E.C. 2 for Stromness, was astern of convoy because of weather. Attacked by 2 engined A/C off Aberdeen at 2230/5 flashing buoy - machine gunned 3 bombs hit ship which sank at once, 8 saved, including mate and chief engineer. Master and Boatswain last seen on raft, not picked up.
8 survivors 4½ hours on raft, picked up by fishing trawler RONONIA - 6 miles E.S.E. of Girdleness. Survivors, unwounded but bruised, have been landed at Methil. (N.O.I.C., Methil 1222/6)

/Convoy E.N.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy E.N. Even. — Fighters are being sent to the assistance of Convoy MISSION. (Lyness W/T 1228/6)

GLENFINLAS — (British, 7572 tons) Bombed. Unable to steam. Am standing by and embarking injured. My position 052° 01' N., 001° 47' E. (SANDWICH 1246/6)
Fighters being sent. (Nore W/T 1249/6)
Am endeavouring to take GLENFINLAS in tow, but have no proper towing arrangements (SANDWICH 1306/6)
Received at 1226 from SS GLENFINLAS - been bombed againsame position (N. Foreland Radio 1329/6)
Received 1230 G.M.T. from SS GLENFINLAS Captain says we (?are) still being attacked, several near missed.
(N. Foreland Radio 1332/6)
Fighters have been despatched. (Nore W/T 1335/6)
Received 1253 G.M.T. from SS GLENFINLAS. Position is the same. Require tugs immediately. (N. Foreland Radio. Recd. 1406/6)
One tug from Harwich and one from Yarmouth proceed to tow GLENFINLAS now. Towing is to proceed to Harwich. You are to escort to Cork Light Vessel. (C. in C., Nore 1409/6 to SANDWICH)
Departure tug KENIA to assist GLENFINLAS (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1413/6)
Request fighter protection for TABLE in 52° 3' N., 1° 49' E., (SANDWICH 1437/6)
Fighters have been despatched to TABLE (Nore W/T 1449/6)
Departure of tug DIVERSION at 1453 to assist GLENFINLAS. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1506/6)
GLENFINLAS not in immediate danger of sinking. Have on board 2 British Engineers, 10 chinese crew: One engineer and 2 Chinese badly injured. Propose landing them at Harwich.
(SANDWICH 1500/6)
GLENFINLAS in tow of small tug from Harwich. Trawler LIBERATOR trying to assist. Searching for sign of tug from Yarmouth. Speed of tow 1.5 knots.
(SANDWICH 1715/6)

/LIBERATOR's..

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

LIBERATOR's line has parted and tug cannot hold GLENFINLAS against tide. Have ordered ORQD GLENFINLAS to anchor. My position is 051° 56' N., 001° 30' E. (SANDWICH 2005/6)
Position of GLENFINLAS 051° 56' N., 001° 30' E. Proceed immediately to assist with tow. (C. in C., Nore, 2101/6 to DIVERSION)
It is essential two tugs should be sent to GLENFINLAS anchored (SANDWICH 2112/6)
Departure tug KENIA to assist GLENFINLAS (F.O.I.C., Harwich 2302/6)

Six M/S Trawlers. — Request fighter protection for SKIPPER (MANGROVE 1255/6)

A/C over Scapa Flow — At 1230 enemy aircraft identified as Ju. 88 passed over Flow height 4000 feet and would probably have seen into fleet anchorage. Cloud ceiling approximately 4000 ft. Aircraft was engaged by ground defence when seen over Pentland Firth. (A.C.C.S. 1325/6)

Convoy F.N. Even — Request fighter protection for Convoy AGENT, in position 51° 23' N., 1° 5' E. (WALLACE 1337/6)
Fighters have been sent to convoy AGENT. (Nore W/T 1345/6)

OLGA S — (British, 2252 tons) VIVIEN and CHELSEA have 29 survivors, 3 wounded, from OLGAS (corrupt group) bombed at 1010 today in 055° 48' N., 009° 45' W., (VERITY 1338/6)

EMPIRE SAILOR — (British, 6140 tons) attacked in 59° 2' N., 7° 9' W., (Liverpool W/T 1355/6)
EMPIRE SAILOR. Cancel my 1353/6. (Lyness W/T 1411/6)
OSWALDIAN report begins. Escorting EMPIRE SAILOR attacked by aircraft to Butt of Lewis as he has defect in engine room. He is proceeding to Loch Ewe. 1650/6 end. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1736/6)

/Convoy O.B...

MOST SECRET.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy O.B. Even. — Request fighter protection for ONSET ~~185 WCL 63~~. 185° 63 miles from 60° N. (? longitude.).(BOADICEA 1425/6.). My 1425. No hits. (BOADICEA 1427/6.). My 1439 V 2 XJ - 5 bombs.No hits. (WALLACE 1503/6.).

WINDERMERE. — Emergency Air Attack. 31 0 Butt of Lewis. 54. (WINDERMERE T.O.R. 1505/6.).

GEDDINGTON COURT. (Bombed 3/4). — One 250 kilo bomb removed and dumped in 27 fathom. 56° 9' N., 2° 48' W. No 3 hold flooded. Bomb hole of other bomb seen about three feet under present water line abreast flooded hold. If bomb is in hold, B.S.O. considers bomb now reasonably safe due to time elapsed. Request ship be moved to dock at Rosyth as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1732/6.).

ANDONI. — (British, 678 Tons) Arrived. Reports being attacked by aircraft between Longships and Lizard at 1430/6. One Army Gunner, one R.N.Gunner, slightly wounded. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2015/6.).

Convoy E.N. Odd. — Help "MIGHT" in 57° 10' N., 1° 49' W. (Lyness 2125/6.).
One enemy aircraft bearing 100° height unknown position 57° 12' N., 1° 50' W. (HASTINGS 2127/6.).
My 2127. One bomb no hits. (HASTINGS 2132.). Aircraft still in vicinity of convoy. (HASTINGS 2140/6.).
My 2140. Aircraft still in vicinity of convoy 57° 16' N. 1° 45' W. (HASTINGS 2158/6.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

G.W.	Operation G.W. is to be postponed. (1st S.L. 0004/6).
Z.M.E.28.	Operation Z.M.E. 28 completed. (PLOVER 1016/6).
Medway Channel.	Ships using Medway Channel are to keep to southern side of Channel between three and five Medway Channel Buoys. (Capt: S.6. 1114/6 to STURGEON).
Thames Estuary. Explosions.	Explosions etc. in Thames Estuary for night of 5th/6th April. At 2256 two heavy separate explosions at a very short interval appeared to be in position south of NoreSand reference my 1254/4, on night of 4th/5th April at 2205 there were two heavy explosions probably mines in water near Maplin Buoy. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1318/6).
Milford Haven.	Following eleven mines detonated today off St. Annes and Great Castle Heads. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1733/6 and 1852 /7).
Spurn Point.	Two mines exploded today by S.A.Gear. Details. (F.O.Humber, 1756/6).
S.N.8.	S.N.8. completed. (R.A.(M) 1829/6).
Plymouth.	One red mine detonated 0652 today 198° Breakwater Light 1.63 miles. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1850/6).
TORRENT.	(A/S Yacht) Mined and sunk. 50° 5'10"N., 4° 57' 25" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2030/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

INTREPID.
ICARUS.

My 2319/6. INTREPID and ICARUS are to embark reduced outfits of Mark XVII mines with flooders A.M. tomorrow.
Request you will signal time they will be ready to proceed.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2321/6 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

Four M/V's.

Aircraft reports 4 merchant vessels in 47° 47'N., 08° 15'W. Course unknown, at 0325/6.
(D.D.I.C. 0514/6).
My 0514/6. Course at 0325/6 was 180° These were small vessels.
(D.D.I.C. 0930/6).

3 Destroyers.

3 destroyers. Entered Cherbourg Harbour at 0720/6. A/C report.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0745/6).
(D.D.I.C. 0823/6) (F.O.S. 1038/6).
My 2154/5. It now appears that only 3 destroyers were concerned.
(D.D.I.C. 1005/6).

3 Destroyers off Ushant.

Three enemy Destroyers bearing 270° distance one mile. Course 225. Position 48° 42'N., 4° 8'W.
(Plymouth W/T 1230/6 to 19 Group H.Q.)
(D.D.I.C. 1327/6).

Surface Unit.

By D/F at 1230 surface unit between 046° N., 047° N., 003° W., 005° W.
(F.O.S. 1257/6 to TIGRIS).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Cherbourg. Shipping at 1045/6.	PRU Sortie H/800 date 6/4/41 time 1045 hours shows in Cherbourg shipping since harbour Roads last seen visually on 31/3/41. Now anchored in Grande Rade one large M/V not camouflaged possibly 8,000 tons German PREUSSEN or LA PLATA. At Digue Du Homet large Tanker about 12,000 tone two Coasters and five Trawlers. In Petite Rade one smaller Tanker. (PRU Benson, 1525/6).
CASTOR.	Your 1147/5. No information of CASTOR since leaving Port Arthur, Texas on 12/3. (D.O.D.(H) 1624/6 to N.A.Stockholm).
Seven Destroyers off Brest.	At 1445 in 048° 29'N., 004° 50'W. seven destroyers course southerly 12 knots. (F.O.S. 1648/6 to S/M's Area A).
Brest. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.	At 1400/6. SCHARNHORST still present at same berth surrounded by T.B.nets. GNEISENAU has left dry dock and is now moored in middle of Rade Abri South of SCHARNHORST with seven or more tugs alongside her one of which is now in steam. Port Militaire not covered by photographs and Rade Abri mainly obscured by cloud but additional tug seen in steam also Flak ship approaching entrance to Rade. (PIS St. Eval, 1800/6). (D.D.I.C. 1813/6). At 1830/6. SCHARNHORST still present at T.B. Station surrounded by torpedo nets. GNEISENAU still present in Rade Abri in position previously reported today. Three tugs are now alongside her on starboard side and a large vessel possibly MV or tanker a new arrival since 1400 hours 6/4/41 now alongside her on port side. Large vessel probably tanker previously reported still alongside at seaplane station. Four probably five vessels in line astern seen on distant oblique. Photograph. Possible mine-sweepers are at Eastern entrance to Goulet de Brest. Port Militaire and Port de Commerce covered by indistinct photographs. (PRU St. Eval, 2145/6 to H.Q.B.C.) (D.D.I.C.2318/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Escorts, to 35° W.

Arrangements for escort groups, based in Iceland etc.
(C.in C. W.A. 1203/6 to Admty etc.)
See Lion Copy.

H.X.114.

8 hours late at R/V. Easterly gales and fog. EMPIRE MERMAID, straggler ahead, bombed and sunk. Following casualties from air attacks in St. Georges Channel:- HIDLEFJORD and SAN CONRADO total loss, ADELLEN, KAIA KNUDSEN and CHESAPEAKE damaged.
(D.T.D. 1603/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Yugoslav ships.

Following has been broadcast to all Yugo-slav Merchant ships. Yugoslav Govt., have given instructions to all Yugoslav ships abroad to proceed immediately to an Allied or Neutral port. Masters of Yugoslav ships are warned to disregard any contrary order which may be received from sources which may be under enemy control. Pending further instructions from Yugoslav Govt., if any Master is in doubt he should refer to Owners' Representatives in London or New York or to the nearest Yugoslav diplomatic or consular representative.
(Ends).
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2312/6 "A" Message and 2327/6 to Rugby Radio).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1951.
SUNDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ASSINIBOINE.

My 1601/5. For "Arrived ASSINIBOINE" read Arrived ASSINIBOINE with Collision damage.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1837/6).

S.S.
NEERBERG.

17 survivors apparently from Norwegian ship landed Sule Skerry A.M. today. Ship's name appears to be S.S. NEERBERG.
(A.C.C.S. 2238/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Watch for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

Admty., 2220/5. Proceed towards 41° 00' N., 16° 30' W., at 20 knots. Report forthwith E.T.A. (1st. S.L., 0029/6 to F.O. Force H.). Departure S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL SHEFFIELD, FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FAULKNOR, FIJI. (S.O.I., Gib., 0030/6.).
Your 0029/6. E.T.A., 1800A/7, Force H to proceed towards specified position.
(S.O. Force H., 0830A/6, to Admty.).
Fuel state of Force "H" on sailing A.M./6. RENOWN, SHEFFIELD, and FIJI, complete, ARK ROYAL, 300 short. (F.O.C.N.A, 1942/6, to Admty.).

MALVERNIAN CAMITO.

F.O.C.N.P. 1644/5. Proceed to Gibraltar. Report E.T.A.(F.O.C.N.A., 0106/6 to MALVERNIAN, CAMITO.
Your 0106/6. Arriving Gibraltar 1400 zone -1 9/4. (CAMITO, 0252/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).
My 0106/6 pass through 036° 00' N., 010° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1030/6 to MALVERNIAN, CAMITO.

Italian U/B's.

Possibly 5 Italian U-Boats may shortly attempt to pass Straits of Gibraltar westbound. (F.O.C.N.A. 0903/6, to OTUS, 0949/6 to N.A. Stn.).

Yugoslav Ships.

No Yugo-Slav ships should be allowed to pass into the Mediterranean. (A.C.N.S.(T). 1045/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).

OLYMPUS, Operation "Principal".

Your 1401/5. OLYMPUS arrived Gibraltar 2/4 after 20 days on convoy duty and sailed for operation "PRINCIPAL" on 3/4. N.O.I.C. Malta pass to S.O. Submarines Malta. (F.O.C.N.A., 1046/6, to C. in C. Med.).

MARQUIS DE COMILLAS

Spanish left Lisbon for Havana on 3/4. If intercepted following passengers should be interrogated. (D.N.I. 2210/6 to F.O.C.N.A, C. in C. A.W.I.).

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.4.41.
Sunday.

FORRIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

French Convoy.

At 1630/6. French destroyer SIMOUN passed Gibraltar westbound escorting French M.V.'s COMPIEGNE, SAGITTAIRE, and IMERETHIE II., all with troops, and also KAKOULIMA.(D.O.R.7/4.)

Operation "Ration" SHEFFIELD incident with Nemours battery.

SHEFFIELD's 1515/30/3. The conduct of the operation leaves much to be desired and the views expressed by C.O., SHEFFIELD, are at variance with instructions issued in Admty., 1407/10/1, para. 2 (d). No question of C.O. breaking International Law on the C.O.'s responsibility was involved, action against the convoy and action inside French territorial waters being covered by Admiralty orders in 1407/10/1. Except as a very last resort which it is most unlikely would have been reached no question of torpedoing the merchant ships would have been involved nor would it have achieved his object. Unfortunate that SHEFFIELD did not receive Admty., 0026/30. C.O. SHEFFIELD is to be commended on the action taken against the shore battery and on the effectiveness of SHEFFIELD's fire. (1st. S.L., 2311/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).

LIGURIA.

Swedish, 1751 tons. Ten survivors have been picked up. Ship was bound from London to Las Palmas in Convoy O.B.302, and no account of an attack on her has yet been reported. (D.S.579, 6/4.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

VOLTAIRE.	Your 1714/5. (Re position) Yes. This is possible. (D.D.I.C. 0118/6 to C. in C. S.A).
TACOMA (German).	The action taken today against Italian and Danish Ships has bot affected the situation as regards German Ship TACOMA which is interned in Montevideo. Her crew are allowed to remain on board but it is reported that additional precautions are being taken to prevent sabotage. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0129Z/6 to D.N.I).
XXIV MAGGIO LECH BABITONGA.	Pernambuco reports Italian XXIV MAGGIO has returned alongside quay to complete taking fresh water. At Rio de Janeiro German LECH has not yet received sailing permit but is still loading. BABITONGA still remains ready to sail. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0151Z/6 to S.O.I. Freetown).
Crews for Whalecatchers POL 1 POL 5.	In view of difficulty of providing crews for Whalecatchers POL one and POL five from the United Kingdom intend making the following arrangements which will expedite their sailing. (3) Anticipate that both vessels will sail about 20/4. Request confirmation that both vessels should proceed to Alexandria. T.O.G. 9832B/7. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0832/6).
MARLENE torpedoed 4/4, proposals for NAPIER and NIZAM.	MARLENE torpedoed by U-Boat in 008° 15' N. 014° 17' W. at 2020 N/4. Destroyers in convoy and aircraft searching area today. W.S.7 with four destroyers leaves Freetown noon/7 for southward. S.L. 71, 50 ships, leave noon/8 with 4 Corvettes routed outside Verde Island. NIZAM, NAPIER with HIGHLAND MONARCH arrive Freetown 8/4. Have no orders for NAPIER and NIZAM but propose after fuelling they join S.L. 71 and assist in escort in case convoy is located and shadowed by U-Boat between Freetown and Verde Island. This considered as urgent matter and presence of additional destroyers should be utilized. (C. in C. S.A. 1050N/6 to Admty).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MARLENE torpedoed 4/4 proposals for NAPIER and NIZAM. (contd).

Your 1050/6. NAPIER and NIZAM are on passage to join Med. Fleet vide A.T. 0138/2/2 and must not be delayed. (A.C.N.S.(F). 1711/6 to C. in C. S.A).

Personnel from ORMONDE.

Your 1721/2. Intend to embark 100 of those service personnel in ALMANZORA leaving Capetown 8/4 for Freetown and U.K. and a further 110 in WINCHESTER CASTLE leaving Capetown 9/4 direct for U.K. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1147/6 to Admty).

Falklands Defences.

Admty 2022/28. Re ammunition etc. (D. of L.D. 1214/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

Raiders.

Your 00222/5. Suggest one of these units raider C. (No. 16) but could be ADMIRAL SCHEER. Probable position at 16162/5 within 150 miles 038° S. 040° E. Second unit possibly some 500 miles North of this. Both probably proceeding (?) northward. (C. in C. S.A. 1259/6 to C. in C. E.I.).

Sal Island A/C's reported.

My 1917/12/1. Officer from CLAN MACNAB reports that when boats passing North of Sal Island Midday 20/3 observed plane approaching at High speed from S.E. passing centre of Island then headed for N.E. afterwards two large columns of smoke like signals arose from centre of Island. Survivors from ALMKERK (Dutch) torpedoed P.M/16 state that a large seaplane flew round vessel five hours before vessel was torpedoed and when about 250 miles from Sal. Possibility that Italian planes may be scouting off Sal before run to Cisneros and signalling result to ground staff. (C. in C. S.A. 1621/6th to Admty)

/NORDERNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.4.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NORDERNEY. (German). H.M. Consul Para reports German ship NORDERNEY now loaded. Cargo includes 1500 tons rubber. Any opportunity to intercept NORDERNEY should be taken. Pending further instructions interception is not to take place inside Carribbean. (D.E.W.D. 1744/6 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I.).

W.S.7. Sails Freetown 1300/7 to arrive in position 31.11 S. 14.45 E. at 1600/15 where Durban portion will leave. Request HAWKINS may R.V. in this position. Ref. your 0814Z/1. (C. in C. S.A. 1957/6 to C. in C. E.I.).

Service Personnel. My 1721/2. Essential that no transport sailing independently should leave Cape with more than 100 Government personnel on board. My 1838/6 Personnel surplus to this number in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and NEA HELLAS should be transferred to MONARCH OF BERMUDA at Capetown together with 250 personnel already disembarked from ORMONDE. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and NEA HELLAS should then be sailed unescorted as soon as possible. MONARCH OF BERMUDA should be sailed with EMPRESS OF JAPAN and C. in C. S.A. is requested to consider provision of stronger escort such as NELSON. (D.O.D.(F) 2202/6 to C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

BIRMINGHAM. S.L. 70. Your 1905/1, 2155/2. It will not now be possible to provide a relief to allow BIRMINGHAM to fuel at sea. She should therefore continue with the Convoy until meeting a local escort. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2243/6 to C. in C. S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Warning to Ships in Aegean.	Concurrently with German declaration of the invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece and Turkey and also the Eastern Mediterranean had become a theatre of war. The only free zone, says the announcement, is Turkish territorial waters and neutral ships are advised to use this route. Any ship entering the area of operations exposes itself to risk of destruction by mines or other means of warfare. (The Times, 7/4/41.).
Italian Zone.	Italy has declared the Adriatic north of 41-50 N., to be dangerous to navigation. (D.S. 580, 7/4.).
PREMUDA sunk 12/11.	Italian newspaper Il Telegrafo of 3/3 state PREMUDA, 4427 tons, in convoy on night of 11-12/11/40, was attacked by overwhelming forces, set on fire, and sunk. (D.S.580.).
Benghazi demolitions.	Chief of Staff No. 73. Following action carried out at Benghazi. (details). Not possible to breach moles enough to be properly effective nor was any means available of blocking outer entrance. Intended to lay Cucumbers during next few days, and considered harbour will be unuseable for a considerable time and landing of stores will have to be done by lighterring, a slow process at this port. (C. in C. Med., 1016/6, to Admty.).
ARKADIA (German).	Left Istanbul for Braila, 7/4. (Galata. 1026/6.).
OLYMPUS.	Your 1351/5. It is intended to base OLYMPUS at Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 1102/6.).
Tripoli bombed.	Operational Summary No. 300 up to 1200/6. Night 4/5, 8 Wellingtons dropped 10,800 lbs. bombs on Tripoli Harbour starting fire among Barrack stores. Large explosion caused at base of Eastern Mole and power Station hit. (H.C.M.A.F., M.E., 1118/6.).

/UNIQUE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

UNIQUE UPRIGHT.	Sail at 1930/7 and proceed through 035° 22' 014° 14' and 034° 00' 024° 00' thence Alexandria as ordered by Capt.S.I. (Cdr. S.I. 1129/6 to UNIQUE, UPRIGHT, etc.).
OLYMPUS.	F.O.C. N.A.'s 1720/4. Route for OLYMPUS to Malta. RORQUAL made passage North of Pentellaria during daylight 2/4, experiencing no difficulty. Escorted French submarines may be encountered Central Mediterranean proceeding to and from Beirut. (V.A. Malta 1210/6, to OLYMPUS.). Your 1720/4 (N.T. in W.R.). OLYMPUS routed through (A) 038° 10'N. 005° 00'E. (B) 038° 05' 011° 10' (C) 037° 18', 011° 17' thence north of Pantellaria by route taken by RORQUAL 2/4 ref. my 1210/6 to OLYMPUS. Request I may be informed when OLYMPUS is due to leave patrol. No date for arrival at Malta has been given. (V.A., Malta, 1245/6 to F.O.C.N.A.). Your 1245/6. OLYMPUS should have left patrol approx. 0700/5 acting on Admty., 0159/5. Your (?210)/6 not yet received. (F.O.C.N.A. 1710/6 to V.A. Malta.).
Battleships.	Your 1316/4. Battleship strength in Mediterranean will suffice for present but I should like consideration given to exchange of BARHAM and QUEEN ELIZABETH, at suitable moment.(reason) (C. in C. Med., 1240/6, to Admty.).
Attack on YORK boats used.	My 1321/6 Part 1. Your 1452/4. Following is repetition of my 0901/1. Adty., 1413/29/3. Boats used in attack on Suda Bay were not submersible. Description. (YORK 1315/6, 1319/6.).
Battle of Cape Matapan.	Cancel my 451 B, (1213/2 - Battle of Ionian Sea.). This engagement is to be referred to as "Battle of Cape Matapan". (C. in C. Med., 1439/6 to Med. Stn.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.4.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

German Unit. My 0022/5. Another D/T position of a German target was obtained in same area at 1416Z/5. (2) NORDDEICH frequencies 16970 kc/s and 12720 kc/s are being used. (see A.M. 7873 A 23/3 and 792 A 23/2. (C. in C. E.I., 0306/6. to E.I., Sqdn.).

COBURG KETTY BROVIG. Your 2352/3, (Proposal to release news of COBURG and KETTY BROVIG incident.). Consider news should be withheld a little longer. Present German W/T transmitting activity in Indian Ocean may be connected. (C. in C. E.I., 0410Z/6, to Admty.).

Force T. My 1636/29. Force T. is to leave Patrol so as to arrive Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 8/4. (C. in C. E.I., 0756Z/6, to Force T)

Situation at Basra. Your 1644/5. Position now as follows: Regent and A d C two Ministers, in FALMOUTH at Basra. Local authorities have not indicated that they are aware of this fact. Police and military representing Rashid Ali faction ostensibly in control. Military demonstrations as in Baghdad not carried out at Basra. Am informed by reliable authorities reason to be uncertain of local attitude combined with shortage of ammunitio Local situation at the moment comparatively quiet.(N.O.I.C. Basra 0845Z/6.).

CORFU. My 1418/2. CORFU will leave Durban 7/4 for Mombasa. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0937z/6, to C. in C. E.I.).

COLOMBO. B.N.24. Bombay departures COLOMBO escorting B.N.24. (S.O.I. Bombay, 1105z/6, to Admty., etc.).

/Military.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Military Medical Unit in Hospital Ship.	A complete Military Medical Unit has been given passage in a Military Hospital Ship employed on East Coast of Africa. D.S.T.O. Mombasa demurred at first but Medical C-in-C. in the vessel considered the 1929 Geneva Convention permitted this to be done and D.M.G. Nairobi and Deputy Judge-Advocate Force H.Q. who were also consulted concurred. It appears to me to conflict with Admty., 1530/31/8/1939 to C. in C. East Indies only and if this is agreed at Admiralty suggest War Office be asked to issue necessary guidance to their Officers. (C. in C. E.I., 1314/6 to Admty.).
EAGLE.	To join S.Atlantic Station as soon as she can be passed through Suez Canal. C. in C. E.I., requested to signal proposals for her movement to Capetown. (A.C.N.S.(F)2241/6, to C. in C's, Med., E.I., S.A.).
Situation Basra.	Regent in FALMOUTH at Basra, possibility of attempt to seize. To re-establish his authority an adequate militant force will be required backed up by a vigorous blockade (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 2310Z/6, to C. in C. E.I.).

China.

FURIKRE CONSOLINI (Italian).	Was at Kobe on 26/3. She is one of 4 Italian ships reported as employed on coastal trade under Japanese flag. (D.S. 578, 6/4.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

GRANLI, Norwegian. Reported overdue at Demerara, Aruba, Port Arthur, New York and Freetown respectively. (D.S. 578, 6/4.).

BRITISH STRENGTH
SOLITAIRE,
Norwegian.
HAUTBRIDGE.
UMONA.

CONTE BIANCAMANO (Italian). Press reports state that on 5/4 a U.S. transport left Colon, Panama, for New York with her crew. (D.S. 578, 6/4.).

MALAYA. Arrived New York. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0908/6, N.A. Washington 2030/6.).

WAR BRAHMIN. Your 1140/3. Every effort must be made to reduce time under repair. Request report. (Controller, 1407/6, to Cdre i/c Bermuda.).

VAN KINSBERGEN. Leave Curacao 7/4 and proceed to show yourself off Cartagena, taking care not to enter territorial waters. Proceed thence to Kingston Jamaica, to arrive 10/4.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1621/6, to VAN KINSBERGEN)
My 1621/6. Movement of VAN KINSBERGEN ordered in my 1132/28, did not take place owing to non receipt of signal by ship addressed. Matter is being dealt with.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 162z/6, to Admty.).
Cancel my 1621/6. Proceed at best possible speed to Trinidad and refuel. Further orders will follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2201/6, to VAN KINSBERGEN.).

Shipping Routes. For N.C.S.O.'s. My 2036/18/3. Ships may be routed North of Sable Is. after 15/4. Sydney (C.B.) Harbour is not likely to be navigable before 1/5. Gulf of St. Lawrence. Ships should be able to arrive Father Point by 30/4. Reports on ice conditions between Cape Race and Quebec and suggested routes will be broadcast twice daily. (D.T.D. 1844/6, to C. in C.'s.).

/U.S.S.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

U.S.S. NIBLACK. — U.S.Destroyer NIBLACK leaves Halifax for Iceland at 1815 Q on 6/4. (route). E.T.A. Reykjavik at 0700 zone + 1 12/4. One Warrant Officer and 8 ratings R.N. taking passage for onward transport to U.K.
(R.A.S. 1919/6 to DERBYSHIRE, THUNDERBOLT, QUEEN ELIZABETH, CIRCASIA, TRIBUNE, etc.)

Caribbean interceptions. — Your 1744/6. Are instructions that interception is not to take place inside Caribbean Sea to be also applicable in the case of enemy ships which may leave Caribbean Ports.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2222/6 to Admty).

New Zealand.

COBURG. KETTY BROVIG. — Your 0101/2. Considered news should not be published for the present, because German W/T Activity in Indian Ocean may be connected. When news can be released arrangements similar to my 2021/7/3 will be made.
(D.P.D. 1658/6 to N.Z.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MARLENE. (torpedoed 4/4).	British 6507 tons, torpedoed in 08.15 N., 14. 17 W. at 2020N/4. (C.in C. S.A. 1050N/6 to Admty). See South Atlantic. Was bound from Calcutta to Freetown and London. Torpedoed about 70 miles W. by S. of Freetown (D.S. 580, 7/4).
?	Ship survivors position 56° 40'N., 11° 45'W. (Liverpool W/T No T.O.O./6.) Ships survivors in four open boats and rafts (position) see choppy. (Liverpool W/T 1150/6). Proceed at best speed to search for survivors in 4 open boats and rafts by A/C reported by A/C in 056° 40'N., 011° 45'W. at 1150. (C.in C. W.A. 1208/6 to BROADWATER).
BEAVERDALE. (torpedoed 1/4).	Following from Icelandic GULLTOPPUR, R.K. 247 (begins). Understand survivors BEAVERDALE picked up consist of 2 more life boats 23 men each believed between 060° 50'N., 029° 40'W. and Reykjanes S.W. Iceland (ends) If no information has been received in regard to remaining life boats flying boats and destroyers will search area first light tomorrow Monday. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2034/6 to A.C.O.S.)

Submarines Reported.

0008.	D/F at 0008/6 bearings of unknown enemy unit, probably U/Boat. (D.D.I.C. 0053/6).
Italian U/Boats.	Possibly passing Gibraltar. (See North Atlantic.)
Estimated U/Boat dispositions.	(D.D.I.C. 1345/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

By WINDERMERE.

Following received from WINDERMERE, have dropped a pattern 6 depth charge in 059° 51'N., 008° 16'W. Contact was firm. Appears non sub, but treating same cautiously and making further investigations in area. 0930/6.(Ends). (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1328/6 to C.in C. Western Approaches.)
WINDERMERE resumed patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1846/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Watch for enemy battle cruisers

R/C of Brest at 1145 showed one battle cruiser but the harbour was not completely covered.
At 1530 one battle cruiser was alongside the T.B. station and the other in dry dock. There were 3 destroyers in the Rade d'Abri, one of which has been present since 5/4.

Q

D. 5 (KELLY) with KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL and JERSEY left Plymouth this evening for 48° N., 7° W to attack, report and shadow the enemy battle cruisers if they leave Brest.

Diplomatic relations with Hungary have been broken off.

British Air Activity

8

47 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night.

6 Blenheims attacked shipping off the Danish coast today.

Air patrols were maintained off Brest last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Trawler VOLESUS reported being attacked at 0940 in 60° 10' N., 9° 45' W. No details are known.

Aberdeen trawlers LOCH LEE and LOCH AWE were bombed and gunned by F.W. in 61° 2' N 5° W this morning; the only damage caused was from cannon shell.

VERSATILE and convoy F.S. 56 were bombed at 0935 off Yarmouth and again about noon. No damage is reported.

SS KIRKWOOD in convoy E.C. 4 was damaged off Southend.

Convoy of 29 merchant vessels called for fighter assistance at 0822 off the Lizard.

ROCHEBONNE sunk

M/S Trawler ROCHEBONNE was bombed and sunk off the Lizard today.

SS BROOM was machine gunned 0015 in 51° 36' N., 5° 48' W., no damage except bullet holes.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

SS ELIZABETH sunk

SS ELIZABETH was mined and sunk off Portsceatho today.

The inner harbour, Holyhead was closed early this morning. Liverpool was closed at 0130 and Convoy O.B. 307 was delayed until 1730. The port was opened at 1105 but was closed again at 2136.

The Clyde was closed at 2345 (see 8/4) and approach to Rosyth at 2316.

Mediterranean

Heavy Air Raid on Piraeus. Mines dropped.

There was a heavy air raid on Piraeus last night. Three ships appear to have been hit, one of which, CLAN FRASER blew up whilst alongside and caused many fires ashore and inships. The port will be completely out of action for several days. About a dozen mines are believed to have been located. CALCUTTA and AJAX were taken safely out of harbour over the mines. No sweepers for magnetic mines are available for Greek waters until the arrival of gear embarked in NIZAM and NAPIER (due Freetown 8/4 escorting HIGHLAND MONARCH)

Certain areas off Yugoslavia are declared dangerous from mines

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Situation at Massawa

Air R/C of Massawa 6/4 showed that the floating dock appears to have been scuttled and the only ship afloat is a hospital ship. FLAMINGO picked up some 42 survivors of destroyer DANIELE MANIN this morning. GIOVANNI G. ACERBI is scuttled off Ras Abdel Kader.

Swordfish R/C at 1200Z today reports Dahlak Island in process of being evacuated. Four ships are sunk and one beached there.

Destroyers for Meditn.

All destroyers in the Red Sea are to be sent to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet.

CAPETOWN torpedoed.

CAPETOWN was torpedoed by an E-Boat at 2324 today while patrolling off Mersa Kuba in 16° 10' N., 39° 16' E.

China

It is proposed to convene a Conference at Singapore to prepare plans for conduct of military operations in the Far East on the basis of Anglo- U.S. - Dutch Cooperation.

America & West Indies

PRINCE DAVID is to try to intercept one unescorted French merchant ship eastward bound across the Atlantic and to send her under armed guard to Trinidad as a test case.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Operation AUGMENT.

Cancel my 2236/6/9/40. Circumstances may render it essential for the Admiralty to order reinforcements at very short notice to one Command in the U.K. at the expense of one or more of the other Commands, the latter being so reduced that all Operations in progress or anticipated have to be abandoned.

2. To initiate this Operation the Code word AUGMENT has been instituted.

Particulars and Examples.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1237/7).

Scuttling of own M/V's to avoid capture.

Questions raised in your 1552/31 are being investigated urgently.
(D.T.D. 1539/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

N.A., N.A. & W.I. and Home Commands. Alteration of Operational Boundaries.

Operational Boundaries between North Atlantic, North America and West Indies, and Home Commands will be altered as follows as from 0001/15.

(a) Northern limit of North Atlantic Command will be the parallel of 43° N., from Coast of Spain to position 43° N., 40° W.

(b) Eastern limit of North American Command will be the meridian of 40° W. from 5° N., 43° N., thence along parallel of 43° N., to 30° W. and up meridian of 30° W., and then as at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1806/7) (A Message 936A.)

REMMAREN. MARGARET JOHNSON.

Swedish REMMAREN intercepted and detained pending instructions from Admty. Request information whether any decision has been r ached re para.3 of your 1918/3 as this ship has accommodation for about 12 passengers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1816/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Cond.)

CACHALOT
SURCOUF.

Re employing them to carry urgent stores to and in Metn:
(F.O.(S) 1902/7).

10th A/S Group.

My 1203. Consider 10th A/S group would be more usefully employed based at Iceland, operating against U/Boats and on rescur work on convoy route to South West of Iceland.
(C.in C. W.A. 1942/6).

Movements.

VICTORIOUS
NAIAD.

In order that adequate escort may be provided, and to meet the requirements of C.in C. Rosyth, the departure of VICTORIOUS from the Tyne is to be deferred until 15/4.

2. It is unlikely that the assistance of Destroyers from Home Fleet can be expected for this movement, The three Hunts loaned from the Nore Command should therefore be retained for this duty.

3. The departure of NIAID may also be postponed in order to afford additional A/A escort to this ship.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1905/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MATABELE, MASHONA sailed 2115/6.
(Capt: D. Londonderry, 0035/7).
My 1941/6. Destroyers have returned to Plymouth.
(F.O.S. 1008/7 to S/M's Area A).
Arrived 0855 KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1009/7).
You will be required to join HOOD who sailed p.m. 6th escorted by ARROW, MAORI, ZULU. Remain at Londonderry until orders for R/V are received from 1st B.C.S.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1014/7 to Capt: D.4.)
Object. To locate, report, and shadow enemy battle cruisers if they leave Brest and proceed to westward.

Information. (ii) SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were at Brest at 1130/7.

(iii) Own Aircraft are carrying out cross over patrols as in my 1725/6 and will report and shadow enemy battle cruisers.

(iv) Own submarines are on patrol to south and west of 048° 30'N., 008° 00'W. and may leave patrol at any time. Submarines are not to be attacked until proved hostile.

(v) Own surface forces will be in following positions at 0800/8. HOOD 054° N., 015° 30'N., KING GOERGE V., and KENYA 050° N., 021° W. QUEEN ELIZABETH and REPULSE 046° N., 021° W., Force H. near 041° N., 016° 31'W. LONDON, FURIOUS ARGUS, and NARKUNDA steaming North on Meridian 023° W.

Execution. 5th D.F. are to pass gate at 1700/7 and proceed to be in 180, Wolf Rock 10 at 2030 thence steer towards 048° N., 007° W.

(vii) If no report of enemy movements is received by 0300/8 return towards the Lizard and thence to Plymouth reporting P.C. and S. at 0530 so that fighter protection may be arranged.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1535/7 to Capt: D.5.)

/The instructions

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - (Contd)

The instructions contained in A.M.1617/6 are to be in force tonight.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1700/7).
My 1542/6. It is requested you will dispose of 5th Flotilla tonight so as to operate against the enemy battlecruisers should they leave Brest and proceed to the Westward.
(1st S.L. 1702/7 to C.in C. Plymouth).
Sailed 1725. KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, JERSEY.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1805/7).
Informing S/Ms as C.in C. Plymouth 1533/7.
(F.O.S. 1903/7 to S/M's Area A).
My 1535/7. Request aircraft concerned may be warned of movements of 5th D/F. In view of the nature of the operation bombing restrictions over a large area are not being asked for.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1903/7 to H.Q.C.C.)
My 1529/6. No further information has been received in the Admiralty necessitating a change in the instructions ordered in A.M. 1529/6.
(1st S.L. 1923/7).
My 1535/7. You will of course neglect no favourable opportunity to attack.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1931/7 to D.5.)
Ships in harbour are to raise steam and proceed to sea.
(V.C.N.S. 2032/7 to A.C.O.S.)
Your 2058. Have cancelled all practices. Am proceeding West. EXETER in company.
(ARETHUSA, 2247/7 to A.C.O.S.)
At your discretion cancel Admty. 2032/7.
(1st S.L. 2331/7).
Revert to usual notice for steam. Ships at sea are not to enter harbour before dawn.
(A.C.O.S. 2357/7 to Scapa Force).

Eastern Channel Patrol.

2 Motor Launches are patrolling between Number 10 buoy and Dungeness.
(N.O.I.C. Dover, 1625/7 to PUFFIN.
Your 1625 received and understood.
(PUFFIN 1745/7 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Brightlingsea Patrols.

My 1045/7. Patrols taken up alternative position.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1727/7).

Corvette off Milford Haven.

At 1915 A/C saw a Corvette with incorrect deck markings. Corvette taken in tow by Pilot Vessel off Milford Haven. (C.in C. Plymouth 2217/7).

British Air Activity.

Coastal Command Aircraft reports having torpedoed enemy destroyer at 1230/6 in 48° 45'N., 4° 20'W. Not known whether vessel was sunk.
(D.D.I.C. 0029/7 to D.5.)

Brest and Dutch and Belgian Coasts.

On 5/4 SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU attacked by one Hampden in very bad weather. No results could be seen.

On night 5/6. No operations were carried out owing to unfavourable weather.

On 6/4. Seven Blenheims carried out a sweep off the Dutch Coast. A cargo vessel of about 2,000 tons beached on a Sandbank 12 miles South of Dan Helder was attacked by 3 Aircraft and, although no direct hits are claimed, all bombs dropped within 20 yards of the vessel. This is possibly the 2,000 ton ship in convoy which was badly hit by a Blenheim of 82 Squadron on 31/3.

One Blenheim attacked a 3 Span Railway Bridge side of Ijmuiden Docks. (South) Another Blenheim machine gunned from 50 feet a ship-bombing range complete with four full scale model ships 2 miles nort of Zandvoort.

/Later in

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Later in the day 7 Blenheims covered the same area and also that between Flushing and Ostend. Of these 2 Aircraft made two attacks on the Iron and Steel Works adjoining the North side of Ijmuiden Docks which had been shown active. Results obscured. The third aircraft attacked 3 ships at the East End of the Berghaven. Heavy flak and evasive action prevented observation.
(H.Q.B.C. 0137/7).

Bombing restrictions.

Your 1208/6. As H.Q.C.C. and F.O.(S) have only a very approximate idea of the return routes of submarines after leaving their convoys it is requested that either you or S.2. will apply for bombing restrictions to cover the return route only, allowing the smallest reasonable margin for navigational error.
(F.O.S. 1254/7 to B.S.3.)
Request bombing restrictions between lines Bishop Rock, Ushant, and Start Point CAP LA HAGUE from 2000/7 to 0800/8.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1453/7 to H.Q.C.C.)
Cancel my 1453.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1635/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

Brest.
Calais.
Ostend.

Night 6/7 Apr. Brest - SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

A force of 47 aircraft consisting of 19 Wellingtons of 1 group, 26 Wellingtons of 3 group, one Hampden and Manchester of 5 group once again attack the Cruisers at Brest.

The weather was exceptionally bad and 10/10 cloud made identification of the target impossible, many aircraft being guided to the docks by flak fire.
No results were observed except two red explosions. The Manchester of 5 group however, came down to 1,500 feet and attacked a ship alongside the harbour but his bombs were believed to have overshot.

Docks at Calais. Attacked by one Wellington of 3 group but no results

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Docks at Ostend attacked by two Blenheims. Bursts were seen on edge of Dock No.1. other results not observed. Wilhelmshaven by one Blenheim. No results observed.
(H.Q.B.C. 1620/7).

Own A/C engaged by Destroyer on 2/4.

A.586. 7/4. Without prejudice to current or subsequent action request you report on following incident.
Seven Blenheim aircraft report being fired on by British Destroyer when 14 miles east of Southwold at 1158/2. Aircraft were flying at heights between 50 and 200 feet. All aircraft flashed the letter of the period and fired corret recognition signal but fire was continued.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1745/7 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

DUNSTAN (Bombed 6/4).

DUNSTAN abandoned. On fire fore and aft, back broken, sinking.
Returning to base with ZWARTE ZEE.
(BRIGAND 0445/7).

Convoy.

Convoy of 29 M/V's and escort requires air assistance, my position, 044° 6 knots, in 49° 59'N., 5° 4'W.
(S.O.M.L. 0822/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy F.S.Even.	Convoy ARENA needs air assistance. My position 52° 40'N., 2° 2'E. (SHELDRAKE 0925/7). Fighters being sent to Convoy ARENA. (Nore W/T 0935/7). Aircraft bombing Convoy ARENA my position 52° 35'N., 2° 2'E. (VERSATILE, 0935/7). My 0935. 3 Bombs dropped, no damage reported. (VERSATILE 0945/7). You have been firing at friendly fighters. (C.in C. Nore, 0959/7 to VERSATILE). Your 0959. No fighters in sight when dive bomber attacked and was fired on. (VERSATILE 1011/7 to C.in C. Nore).
Convoy F.S.Even.	Convoy F.S.Even. Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of even numbered F.S.Convoy. (Nore W/T 1223/7).
VOLESUS.	VOLESUS attacked by aircraft in 60° 10'N., 9° 45'W. (Lyness W/T 0940/7). Intercepted at 1018 D E.G K R. 60° 10'N., 9° 45'W. VOLESUS aircraft still in vicinity 1115/7. (Port Patrick Radio 1018/7).60.10N, 9.45W VOLESUS. Aircraft still in vicinity 1005/7. (Lyness W/T 1109/7). Intercept 1115 G.M.T. VOLESUS. Cancel my AAAA. (Liverpool W/T 1114/7).
GLENFINLAS (Bombed 6/4).	Arrival H.M.T. KENIA. S.S. GLENFINLAS anchored in examination anchorage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1023/7).
NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA. (Bombed 6/4).	ESKIMO arrived with survivors. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1059/7). In position 056° 58'N., 011° 54'W. No sign of NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA. Am searching area with tug in company. (VERITY 1500/7). Position of NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA by good fix was 056° 56'N., 012° 17'W. at 1600/6. VERITY pass to tugs. (C.in C. W.A. 1914/7 to VERITY).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

ROCHEBONNE. (M/S Trawler). Bombed and sunk SCE Lizard Head 3 miles. 8 survivors, 2 seriously injured, 1 dead. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1214/7).

Convoy E.N.Even. Even numbered E.N.Convoy needs air assistance, my position 51° 41'N., 1° 20'E. (CATTISTOCK, 1226/7).

KINGSTON. (British 628 tons). Arrived Newport yesterday. Reports being machine gunned by 2 aircraft with German markings in territorial waters one mile inside Barrel Light Vessel from 1900 to 2015/4. 16 casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1233/7).

DELHI attacked on 4/4 WHITBY (Trawler) bombed on 4/4.

(1) Trawler DELHI H.742 steaming S.E. 6 miles from Hook Light machine gunned at 1445/4/4 by twin engined German aircraft which approached from eastward and flew on westward after one attack. No hits.

(2) Trawler WHITBY M.141. Fishing 3 miles S.S.E. of Blackwater L.V. machine gunned and bombed at 1850/4/4 by two aircraft flying very low. Three attacks Six bombs. Ship leaking and disabled. All crew picked up by Trawler JACKLYN. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1235/7).

Convoys E.N.Odd and Even. Fighters being sent to odd numbered and even numbered E.N. Convoys. (Nore W/T 1237/7).

MARS. (Dutch 1582 tons). Captain states bound for Glasgow from Thames with cargo of cement, left convoy No. E.C.2. to enter Aberdeen with boiler defects. Attacked by A/C at 2115/5/4 2 miles east of Aberdeen dropped 3 bombs near ship. Again attacked by A/C at 2130/5/4 in same position, 4 bombs, 3 missed and one S.C.250 kgs. H.E.Bomb fell on deck,

/did not

MOST SECRET.

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

did not explode, and finally disposed of overboard by B.D.O. Both A/C ma hine gunned ship. Ship returned fire with 2 Hotchkiss and 2 Lewis guns. Deckhouse, steering gear, and deck damaged. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1314/7).

EMPIRE SAILOR. (Bombed 6/4).

Reports considerable damage auxiliary machinery. Will not require dry docking but repairs cannot be executed ship's staff. Ship unfit for ocean voyage but can proceed coastwise at 14 knots. Request instructions.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe. 1540/7).

GEDDINGTON COURT. (Bombed 3/4).

N.O.I.C. Methil, 1732/6. Have ascertained ship can be lightened and listed to bring bomb hole abov water. Repairs will be carried out at Rosyth.
(A.S.Rosyth, 1613/7).

CALIPH.

(Trawler). 15 miles N.N.E. of Smalls, at 2230/6/4 attacked by one low flying aircraft. Two large black objects dropped 12 feet off the bow. Did not explode. Skipper thinks objects were aerial torpedoes. No damage or casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1630/7).

KOROT II.

N.C.S.O. Scrabster reports that Polish Fishing trawler KOROT II bound for Iceland was attacked by E/A 2 miles off Buchaness 2200/6. 3 bombs near missed without damage to vessel but M/G fire slightly damaged superstructure. No casualties. E/A then attacked three trawlers 3 miles to S.E. KOROT II replied with her gun but no apparent hits.
(A.C.O.S. 1720/7).

Arbroath.

One UXBM in domestic area. Request earliest action.
(Arbroach, 2318/7 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0130/7).
O.B.307 delayed. Known minelaying.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey. 0928/7).
1100 Port of Liverpool opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1105/7).
Port of Liverpool closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2136/7).

Holyhead.

Inner Harbour of Holyhead closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0309/7).

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by L.L.Trawlers at 2010/6 246 degrees B.2. Buoy 1.05 miles.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 0910/7).

Tyne.

At 0650/7. One mine exploded by S.A. gear in 076° North Tyne Pier Light, 4 cables.
(P.M.S.O. N.Shields, 1125/7 and 1314/7).

Operation J.O.

Your 1303/7. Admty L. M/O.D.2032/41 of 14/3/41. Operation "C" should be carried out tonight by INTREPID.
(1st S.L. 1559/7).
Your 1559/7. INTREPID will be escorted by CLEVELAND and FERNIE.
Short title of Operation J.O.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1903/7 to Admty).
Your 2321/6. INTREPID ready to proceed at 1330/7. ICARUS has embarked but has reported excessive vibration between speeds of 15 and 25 knots. This is under investigation and it is considered desirable that cause should be found before allowing her to proceed on an operation.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1303/7).
INTREPID, FERNIE and CLEVELAND sailed.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 2157 /7).

Spurn Point.

L.L.Trawlers exploded a mine at 1110 today in 290° S.P.P.7.6 miles.
(F.O.Humber, 1815/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

ELIZABETH. (British 945 tons). Arrival 1700/7. A/S LINCOLNSHIRE with nine survivors of S.S. ELIZABETH mined approx. E.S.E. Porthscathe 5 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1844/7).

Milford Haven. At 0825/7. One mine detonated in 075° St. Anns Head Light 14.5 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1852/7).
At 1800/7. A/C saw two explosions just outside boom, Milford Haven. Searched area for enemy aircraft, nothing seen. Presumed Mines.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2217/7).

Firth of Forth. Approaches to Rosyth closed from 02° 52'W., in Q.Z.S. 175 westwards. Q.Z.S. 196 and 197 closed. East Grangemouth Channel closed. D.G.Range Burntisland closed. All due to suspected enemy minelaying. Methil and Approaches are open.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2316/7).

Clyde. River Clyde closed due to enemy minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2345/7).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. R/C of Brest carried out 1145/7. Harbour was not completly covered but one battlecruiser was seen in same position in Rade Abri as yesterday. Further R/C being made.
(D.D.I.C. 1344/7).
Photographs of Brest this morning show 1 Battlecruiser still alongside T/B station but Rade Abri, where pilot reported seeing one battlecruiser moored, was not covered by photographs.
(D.D.I.C. 1529/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

GLENARTNEY. — BROKE's 0417/7. (COMORIN destroyed by fire). GLENARTNEY is to proceed forthwith on her voyage independently, if necessary without destroyer screen and with survivors onboard. If survivors are on board, ship should call at Freetown to disembark them.
(V.C.N.S. 1226/7 to BOREAS).

GLENARTNEY. — Your 1226/7. Request information from what ship survivors are.
(C.in C. S.A. 1351N/7, to Admty).
Reply: COMORIN, see 1614/8, South Atlantic.)
Your 1226/7. Parted company noon/6. My position estimated noon/7 051° 44' 018° 08' course and speed made good 158° 9. All times are zone + one.
(BOREAS 1441/7 to Admty).
Your 1226. GLENARTNEY left 1400 in 055° N., 020° 30'W. Instructed to call at Freetown to land survivors. Am proceeding to join H.G.57.
(BROKE 1959/7 to Admty).

H.X.115. — On time at R/V favourable weather. Following ships torpedoed and sunk night before arrival at R/V (29/3) HYLTON, LIMBOURG and GERMANIC.
(D.T.D. 1648/7 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

COMORIN sunk.	(Freetown Convoy escort Force). Caught fire in a boilerroom 1400/6 and whole ship caught. Ship abandoned by 2359, and I have torpedoed her. LINCOLN 121, GLENARTNEY 104, and BROKE 179 survivors including captain. Intend to proceed with LINCOLN and GLENARTNEY to North Channel when COMORIN sinks. My position is 054° 34'N., 021° 20'W. (BROKE, 0417/7). COMORIN sunk in 054° 51'N., 021° 02'W. Have 121 survivors. (LINCOLN 1300Z/7).
AYRESHIRE.	Arrived with steering gear defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1206/7).
CREOLE.	(French S/M) Has devoloped further engine trouble. Date of sailing uncertain. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1547/7).
MAHOUT.	MAHOUT, destination Liverpool, reports D.G. gear only 70% effective. (VANQUISHER 1701/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.4.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B Report. At 0026A/7. See U-Boat Campaign.

French Convoy. French destroyer TEMPETE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1635/7 escorting French M.Vs CHELMA, MONSELET, ARAGAZ and WINNIPEG. (D.O.R. 8/4).

ERNA OLDENDORFF GIERDA VITH. German ERNA OLDENDORFF and GERDA VITH arrived Ferrol 26/3 to be docked and take bunkers former from Marin and latter from Vigo. (Guyat Coruna 1140/7 to Admty).

Yugoslav ships. Your 1913/5. Does this include ANTE MATOKOVIC who has cargo and orders to proceed Sydney C.B.? OLGA TOPIC discharging wheat for Swiss Gov. ready about 22/4. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1214/7 to Admty).

BRITANNIA survivors. Your 1713/5. (Sinking of BRITANNIA Internment of Naval Military Personnel). Yes. M.F.A. states no difficulty anticipated but there are always delays. (N.A. Madrid, 1807Z/7 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA EMPRESS OF JAPAN CATHAY. Your 2141/19. MONARCH OF BERMUDA due to leave Durban 13/4 has on board 1250 service personnel for U.K. 250 other personnel at Durban also awaiting passage. Proposed MONARCH OF BERMUDA embarks all available service passengers and sails with EMPRESS of JAPAN from Capetown about 19/4 escorted by CATHAY. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1114B/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM S.L.70. Comply with Admty 2243/6/4. (BIRMINGHAM will continue with convoy until meeting local escort.) (C. in C. S.A. 1126/7 to BIRMINGHAM).

.. ..

Suspicious Signals.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious Signals.

My 1937/24 and your 1047/25. (quotes 1937/24 re dummy message received at Freetown). These signals traced to MILFORD who was endeavouring to jamb suspicious merchant ship which she was investigating. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1219/7 to Admty).

PORTADOC

Overdue shipping. PORTADOC due Freetown 4/4 from St. Lucia 17/3 has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1247/7 to Admty). Following has been read. S.O.S. PORTADOC 7.17 N 16.53 W Sinking rapidly taking to boats need immediate assistance. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1450N/7).

TEMPLE MOAT

Overdue shipping. TEMPLE MOAT due Buenos Aires 28/3 from Clyde 19/2 has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1337/7 to Admty).

OLTUL SIRETUL PYAHOVA

My 122 G time 1157/13/12. Instructions to capture Roumanian ships OLTUL SIRETUL and PRAHOVA are cancelled. (C. in C. S.A. 1437/7 to S.A. Stn.)

Convoy delays Freetown.

Your 1944/29. Average delay for ships waiting convoy at Freetown apart from other reasons is 6.4 days. (C. in C. S.A. 1457N/7 to Admty).

W.S.7

Departure 1500/7. NELSON escorting W.S.7 Local escort WISHART, DUNCAN, FOXHOUND, VIDETTE. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1515N/7 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

At 1540 G.M.T. Bearings of enemy unit. (D.D.I.C. 1728/7 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

ILLUSTRIOUS

Estimated that after essential repairs to both main steam pipes ILLUSTRIOUS will be ready to sail from Durban a.m./19th for Freetown without calling at Cape Ports. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1830/7)

K.G. MELDAHL... .....

MOST SECRET.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

K.G.
MELDAHL

D. of S.T.'s 2351/3. S.T.O. Takoradi has been instructed to embark maximum possible number of additional planes for Middle East in K.G. MELDAHL due Takoradi now with 60 aircraft and to direct master to proceed to Suez. In view of importance of this cargo request consideration for her safety by inshore routeing or by escort if available.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2015/7 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.I.)

NORDERNEY
XXIV MAGGIO

Para reports German NORDERNEY has moved alongside to load 200 tons castor seed. At Pernambuco Italian XXIV MAGGIO is now back at outer Mole. At Bahia Blanca situation remains unchanged.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2305Z/7 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Air Raid
Piraeus,
CLAN FRASER
blown up.

Raid to-night Piraeus, appeared to hit three ships and some dozen mines believed located. Due to slowness in preparing to tow out CLAN FRASER latter blew up still alongside starting many fires ashore and in ships. Damage is great possibly a dozen ships burnt out and dock zone largely burnt out, also many Caiques. PERTH left for Salamis Straits before raid but CALCUTTA and AJAX tood their ships out magnificently through thick smoke and over mines. All three are safe.
(N.A. Athens, 0750/7 to C. in C. Med.).
My 0750/7. Piraeus port completely out of action for several days due to fire and unlocated mines in harbour. Request magnetic and accoustic minesweepers forthwith. Southbound convoy ready to sail as soon as escort available. CALCUTTA sailing for Suda Bay p.m. today on assumption northbound convoys will be turned back. AJAX and PERTH sailing p.m. today awaiting instructions.
(N.A. Athens, 1459).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

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(N.A. Athens, 1459).

ROROUAL .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

RORQUAL	Sail at 1930/7 and proceed through 035° 22' 014° 14' and 034° 00' 024° 00' thence Alexandria as ordered by Capt. S.I. (Cdr. S.I. 1129/6 to RORQUAL)
NIZAM NAPIER	Request arrival of NIZAM and NAPIER may be expedited as magnetic mining has started in Piraeus, and no sweepers are available for Greek waters until arrival of gear embarked in these destroyers. (C. in C. Med., 1141/7 to Admty).
SURCOUF	My 1524/14/3. Request reply concerning use of SURCOUF. If practicable ship would be invaluable both for Malta supply and for running out urgent requirements for Middle East. (C. in C. Med., 1143/7 to Admty).
Suda Bay Defence.	Admty 2005/2. Immediate measures. Sufficient alarm nets, buoys and (?Moorings) have been sent to Suda Bay to make agate in outer line alarm nets. Two motor launches are being sent for Boom Patrol as soon as these can be made ready for service. (2) Long term policy. Consider that standard A/B boom iffitted with a gate andsdequately patrolled is a good defence against boats of the type used at Suda Bay. Intend to lay A/B A/S Boom ex KIRRIEMOOR as soon as possible. Request passage of KIRRIEMOOR may be expedited. (C. in C. Med., 1219/7 to Admty).
Yugoslav Mined Areas.	Dangerous areas due to mines exist in following areas of Yugoslavia (A) within 12 miles of coast between Bar 042° 03' N 019°05' E and Dubrovnik 042° 38' N 018° 07' E. (B) Planinski Channel 045° 16' N 014° 33' E. to 044° 15' N 015° 32' E. (C) Area to eastwards of line running from Blitvenica Island 043° 38' N 015° 35' E to Western extremity of Korcula Island, 042° 59' N 016° 36' E. (C. in C. Med., 1614/7 to Med. Stn.)

CLAN FRASER:.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

CLAN FRASER total loss.

S.S. CLAN FRASER total loss in harbour result enemy action. Cargo saved, all vehicles boots and approx 70 tons tyres and tubes. Please repeat order balance first opportunity. (B.M.A. Athens 1630/7 to W.O.)

Enemy A/S Units.

Greek S/M C.O. recently sighted 2 Italian ships painted white with red stripes which were at first mistaken for hospital ships. A tug escorted by 3 diesel schooners stationed 5 cables ahead and on each beam all towing sweeps and wearing N.U.C. Balls has been sighted in vicinity of Spartevento Cape under circumstances that indicated it was some form of A/S Sweep. (Capt. S.I. 1843/7 to 1st S.F.)

Enemy Convoy.

2 Merchant ships with 2 escort vessels in 033° 45' 013° 13'. Course 315°. 10 knots at 1448 B. (V.A. Malta, 1902/7 to UPRIGHT, UPHOLDER).

Bosporus minefield

Turkish G.S. state laying of eastern outer Bosphorus mine field (running N.E. from Yum Burnu) and deep mine field inside Bosphorus will commence very shortly. They do not intend to lay western outer Bosphorus mine field at present. (3) Whole area outside Bosphorus will be declared dangerous to shipping. (N.A. Angora 1906/7)

Hungary

Diplomatic relations with Hungary have been broken off. (Head of M. 1928/7 to C. in C. Med).

German Schnellboats.

Report received that three German Schnellboats arrived in Marseilles on 31/3. (C.2.) (D.D.I.C. 2221/7 to C. in C. Med, etc.)

LIVORNO
SPARTA
TRAPANI

6/4. Arrivals German Steamers LIVORNO, SPARTA,. Departure TRAPANI for Marseilles. (Valencia. T.H.I. 2230/7).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Massawa, survivors of D. MANIN

My 1956/5. Result of Air reconnaissance Para 1 is confirmed. Identity still unknown. Floating dock appears to have been scuttled. Only one merchant ship afloat at Massawa. Dahlak Island visual report, two aflost two sunk in territorial waters, two merchant vessels alongside and one merchant vessel anchored off Assab. FLAMINGO picked up Captain two officers and 39 survivors of Italian destroyer DANIELE MANIN at 0400Z/6 and is taking them to Suez.
(C. in C. E.I. 0330Z/7 to Admty).

SCHEER raider positions.

C. in C. S.A. 1259/6 and 1504/6. (Re probable position of ADMIRAL SCHEER). Request Admiralty's opinion as to composition and position of D/F targets at present in Indian Ocean.
(C. in C. E.I. 0700Z/7)
Your 0700Z/7. Fixes were very indefinite but concur in approx positions given in C. in C. S.A.'s 1259/6. No definite evidence of presence of two units or of their identity.

Raider 16 thought to be still in Indian Ocean and possible that minelaying in Bass Straits was by another unit which may now have returned to Indian Ocean.

According to Wolff and to Norwegians rescued from Whale Catchers SCHEER is returning home, but there is no confirmation of this, except that she has been at sea since 23/10.
(D.D.I.C. 1929/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

W.S.6

C. in C. S.A.'s 1259/6. Suggest DORSETSHIRE leaves W.S.6 forthwith and proceed Durban area. If approved CANBERRA will give cover to W.S. 6 until GLASGOW joins. HAWKINS at Durban is at 48 hours notice for 25 knots.
(C. in C. E.I. 0714Z/7 to Admty).
Your 0714Z/7 approved.
(V.C.N.S.1216/7)

CERES

My 0630/31 CERES is to leave NIEUW HOLLAND in vicinity of Berbera and proceed to Aden
(C. in C. E.I. 0758Z/7 to CERES).

Crews for captured ships.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Crews for Captured ships.

Your 0742/4 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (re anticipated capture of enemy ships intact at Massawa and Assab). Indian engine room and saloon crew unlimited. Indian deck crew limited to 12 ships. No officers available.
(S.S.T.O. India, 08152/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Iraq situation

Summary.
(MICE 1250/7 to W.O.)
DORSETSHIRE is to leave W.S.6 now and proceed to Durban adjusting speed to arrive a.m./10.
(C. in C. E.I. 1412Z/7 to DORSETSHIRE).
My 0330/7. Scrutiny of air photographs of Massawa show GIOVANNI O. ACERBI scuttled off Ras Abdel Kader. Only ship aflost at Massawa is a hospital ship. Swordfish R/C 1200Z/7 reported Dahlak Island being evacuated. 4 ships sunk. One beached at Dahlak.
(C. in C. E.I. 1740Z/7 to Admty. etc).

Army Thanks to R.N.

In a special Order of the Day issued on occasion of Fall of Addis Ababa, General Cunningham states "The work of the Navy supporting us in the initial stages has gaind our greatest admiration. To themselves also fell the task of opening successive ports and giving us our life line. That foodstuff has never been really short is a remarkable achievement for which we must be grateful to our sister service, in co-operation with our transport.
(N.L.O.N. 1800/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Situation and Dispositions.

Your 1438/4. Concur in principle but do not consider that threat of Submarines or raiders entering Red Sea is sufficient to justify retention of two destroyers which are urgently required in Mediterranean. All destroyers are to be sent to Mediterranean forthwith When situation permits, intended that following further redispositions should take place. SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH to join Mediterranean Fleet S.N.O. Persian Gulf to Transfer to an R.I.N. sloop. PARRAMATTA and YARRA to remain for the present in the Red Sea. CALEDON, CAPETOWN and all R.I.N. units to remain on your station.
(1st S.L. 2004/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CAPETOWN, torpedoed by E/Boat.

CAPETOWN has been torpedoed by submarine.
(CAPETOWN, 2324Z/7 to C.in C. E.I.)
My 2324. Am still afloat off Kuba.
(CAPETOWN 2346Z/7 to C.in C. E.I.)
My 2324, for U/Boat read E/Boat.
(CAPETOWN, 0050Z/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

Japan and N.E.I. Rubber.

My 1047 24/3. Dutch Naval C.in C. denies existence of any secret agreement.
Japan asked N.E.I. for 30,000 tons rubber and 1941 quote has been fixed at 20,000 whereas average for 1937 1938 and 1939 was 13,000 tons.
(C.in C. China, 0917Z/7 to Admty).

Singapore Conference.

Chiefs of Staff No.F.E.1. to C.in C. Far East, China, and E.Indies Conference at Singapore on basis of Anglo-U.S.-Dutch co-operation arrangements.
(1st S.L. 1720/7 to C.in C's China and E.I.) Text in Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

Enemy Unit.

Bermuda's 1517/6, not to DESPATCH or DIOMEDE. Bearings indicate an enemy surface unit in approx. 29°N., 50° W., at 1917/6 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0231/7 to C.in C. A.W.I., DESPATCH repeated DIOMEDE.)
A.M. 0231/7. Proceed to search in vicinity of position 029° N., 050° W.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0803/7 to DESPATCH).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

VAN KINSBERGEN
NORDERNEY
MONBALDO.

My 2201/6. After fuelling Trinidad proceed to establish patrol off Para River, to intercept German ship NORDERNEY or Italian MONBALDO if they sail. Maintain patrol to limit of your endurance and then return Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1032/7 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)

PRINCE DAVID.
CARADOC.
French ship to be intercepted.

My 1212/5. Orders for patrol. Object is to intercept one unescorted French Merchant ship eastward bound across Atlantic and to send her under guard to Trinidad as a test case. Interception is not to take place within Caribbean Sea nor within 20 miles of French or Neutral territory. I intend CARADOC should relieve you on this patrol about 17/4 and that you should then return Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1122/7 to PRINCE DAVID).

U.S.Coastguard Cutters, engines.

Your 0217/4. Reply.
(N.A.Washington, 1244/7).

KATWIJK.
(Dutch).

Ministry of Shipping's 1757/11/3. Not arrived La Guaira.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1424/7).

MARAJO boarding incident.

Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff informs me that Br. N.O.Port of Spain, Trinidad, boarded MARAJO, Brazilian Naval Tanker entirely manned by Naval personnel and closed their wireless 27/3. Also would not permit Captain send land cable. C.of S. gone to see Min.For.Aff. With a view to smoothing over difficulties here Ambassador would appreciate very early reply.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1711/7 1731/7 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BEAVERDALE. (torpedoed 1/4).

F.O.I.C. Iceland's 2034/6. No news of further survivors.
(C.in C. W.A. 0116/7 to F.O.C.O.S.)
My 2034/6 ACTIVE sailed. (Search for survivors of BEAVERDALE).
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0705/7 to A.C.O.S.)
Form Orange IC/C2/7/4. Air search for survivors of BEAVERDALE. Nothing sighted until 1605 in position 63.48N., 24.37W., a life boat sighted on course approx. 070° T.5 knots, boat crowded approx. 20 crew. Iron rations and fresh water dropped successfully apparently greatly appreciated, crew appears to be vigorous and well. Message from aircraft to lifeboat gave course to steer and distance from Utskalar Lighthouse. Message received by Syke from B/204 1723 information passed to F.O.C.Iceland who despatched WHITEHORN at 1955.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 2300/7 to Admty.etc.)

WAIPAWA (attacked 13/3).

Br. M.V. WAIPAWA reports attacked by torpedo at 0600/13/3 in 056° 12'N., 007° 19'W. Only indication bubbles and foam in wake of torpedo. No other information (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1123/7 to Admty).

Survivors from BRITISH VISCOUNT, WELCOMBE, HELLE, INDIER, WESTPOOL. (S.C.26).

E.T.A. Bar 0930/8. Survivors from BRITISH VISCOUNT, WELCOMBE, HELLE, INDIER, WESTPOOL. Request where these should be landed.
(HAVELOCK 2047/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

0026.

At 0026 A/7. D/F bearings show an Italian U/Boat within 120 miles of position 034° 00'N., 015° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0614/7) 0826/7 to N..Stn).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1353/7 F.O.S. 1546/7, 1756/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Watch for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

At 0800 today units engaged in the watch for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were to be in the following positions:-
HOOD 54° N., 15° 30'W.
KING GEORGE V, KENYA, 50°N., 21° W.
QUEEN ELIZABETH, R PULSE R/V in 46° N., 21° W.
Force H near 41° N., 16° 30'W.
LONDON, escorting FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA steaming north on meridian 23°W.

At 2000 G.M.T. today C.in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with destroyer screen was due to return to Scapa. REPULSE and destroyer screen were to proceed to Gibraltar to fuel.
HOOD and KENYA to R/V in 50° N., 21° W. and QUEEN ELIZABETH to be in 45° N., 23° W, all at 1200/9, after which they are to patrol near these positions. Force H to remain south of 43° N, AC Force H assuming command at 2000/8 G.M.T. of the forces operating in the Biscay area.

Foreign fishing vessels.

It is suspect that foreign fishing vessels are reporting the movements of our shipping. Masters are to render a report of all foreign deep sea fishing vessels sighted in the East Atlantic, English Channel and North Sea.

Independent Sailings.

Ships of 12 knots and above sailing from Liverpool for overseas via the North Channel, may proceed independently.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Heavy raid on Kiel.

208 aircraft of Bomber Command last night carried out what is reported to be the largest and most successful raid yet made on a German port. 190 tons of H.E. and 56 tons of incendiary bombs were dropped. R/C at 1830/7 had shown the pocket battleships ADMIRAL SCHEER and LUTZOW and two HIPPER class cruisers (probably the ADMIRAL HIPPER and PRINZ EUGEN) to be present.

20 aircraft attacked Bremerhaven and 10 Emden last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

Several East coast convoys were attacked today but no ships are reported damaged.

Attacks on Naval Bases.

Belfast was attacked last night. Admiralty work, was not affected, but aircraft works were severely damaged and there were several casualties.

About 120 enemy aircraft operated in the Forth area last night. No damage was caused to Naval property.

Slight damage was caused to shipyards in the Glasgow area, and a merchant ship under construction was damaged in air attack last night.

Damage was caused to the M.T.B. Base at Yarmouth, by air attack early this morning.

Bombs were dropped on Harwich about noon today. Paddle minesweeper LORNA DOONE was damaged alongside.

MOST SECRET.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation J.O.

INTREPID, FERNIE and CLEVELAND carried out this operation last night.

Mining of Clyde.

Mines were laid in the Clyde during air attack last night and the river was partly closed.

Thames mined.

Mines were repo ted in the Thames and traffic was stopped between Gravesend and Tower Bridge from 0605 to 1345.

S.S. AHAMO was mined and sunk about 30 miles East of Mable Thorpe early this morning.

Belfast mined.

Belfast was closed at 0215 and reopened East of Grey Point at 1041. At 1430 the port was completely open.

The Amble was closed at 1234, Holyhead was opened at 1936. Liverpool was reopened at 1300. Three mines were detonated.
A mine was swept off the Needles.

North Atlantic.

S.S. ESKDENE was torpedoed at 0548 in 34° 43'N., 24° 21'W.

A signal was intercepted tonight from S.S. FORT DE FRANCE (left St. Thomas 27/3 for Casablanca) that she had been "attacked" in 27° 39'N., 28° 6'W by a British ship.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

UMONA sunk 6/4.

FOXHOUND reports picking up 3 survivors from S.S. UMONA in 7° 25'N., 13° 55'W. sho states that the ship was torpedoed and sank at 2000/6.

Convoy escorts.

In view of the definite location of the German pocket battleships in Home Waters and of the battlecruisers at Brest, the strength of major convoy escorts can be reduced to one cruiser south of Freetown.

Survivors landed near Dakar 6/4 state that JHELUM was torpedoed at 2000/21/3 about 300 miles N.W. of Cape Verde Is. after Convoy S.L.68 had scattered.

Mediterranean.

German forces are reported (by H.Q. R.A.F. Greece) to have entered Salonika at 1600 G.M.T./30/3.

Mooring vessel MOOR was blown up by an enemy mine at the entrance to Grand Harbour Malta, at 1500.

MOST SECRET.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Massawa.

Our troops began to occupy Massawa during this forenoon. Tugs and harbour craft left the port, but no warships were seen to leave. The harbour is blocked and there are extensive demolitions. 12 Swordfish are operating near Massawa.

One of them bombed a small destroyer (reported to be the V.C. ORSINI in the harbour at 0941Z but did not hit it.

At 1550Z today Swordfish bombed two M/Boats at Dahlak, straddling them, but results were not observed.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Arming of Iceland Fishing Vessels.

Your 1912/5. Icelandic Government's proposals. Suggest possibility of arming Icelandic shipswhen they next call U.S.A. should be considered. Request instructions.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1207/8).

SURCOUF. CACHALOT.

Proposals contained in your 1902/7 are approved. Work is to be given the highest priority.
(Vice Controller, 1434/8).
CACHALOT and SURCOUF are required in U.K. to prepare for service abroad.
Request you will arrange for their recall forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1940/8 to F.O.S.)

A.M.C's of S.A. Command. Expediting of Refits.

A.M.C's of S.A.Station at present refitting are urgently needed by C.in C. S.A. It is requested therefore that completion of refits may be expedited if at all possible.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1610/8).

Oiler for Stornoway.

C.in C. W.A. 1203/6 and 1411/6. Can a 2,000 ton oiler be spared from Scapa for Stornoway.
(D. of S. 1641/8).

REMMAREN.

Your 1816/7. REMMAREN is to be detained until arrival of next westbound Swedish ship, expected tomorrow, when she may be released.

2. REMMAREN should be routed as in A.M.1921/3.

3. Permission to embark passengers is still awaited from Sweden but there is no objection to your making local arrangements if master is willing to do so on his own authority.
(D.O.D.(H) 1737/8 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).
My 1816/7. REMMAREN examined and found correct. Request instructions.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1745/8).

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Scrutiny for more Escort craft.

As we now have to escort Convoys to 35 deg W. it is essential to provide as many additional escort craft as possible.
I should be grateful if you would scrutinise the employment of every vessel under your command, whether fitted A/S or not, with a view to seeing whether they could be loaned temporarily to N.W. Approaches.
The Need is urgent.
(1st S.L. 0213/8).
Your 0213/8. The only Vessels I could make available would be one Group of Minesweeping Trawlers. Due to the increasing length of daylight the swept and Convoy Channels can be searched for longer periods and in view of this I am prepared to release the 73rd Minesweeping Group fitted A/S as a temporary measure.
(A.C.O.S. 1325/8).
A.M. 0213/8. Important commitment in this command at present is provision of HUNT class destroyers to escort C.E. and C.W. Convoys. Of the six allocated, TYNEDALE is already lent Plymouth and BERKELY is refitting. Consider it inadvisable to surrender more.

Until invasion becomes imminent, consider that the four VEE class destroyers allocated Portsmouth could when fit for service be loaned to N.W.Approaches, together with 20th D.F. now at Portsmouth.

Destroyers would then not be available for extraneous escort duties or to provide cover for important groups of M.V's on passage between Needles and Dartmouth.

It is still necessary to provide yachts or A/S trawlers as close escort for these groups, a commitment Plymouth has asked Portsmouth to accept. If this escort is to be maintained it is not possible to surrender any more of these craft pending an allocation of M.L's for Local Patrols. Three yachts have already been surrendered and one sunk.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1513/8).

Your 0213/8.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Your 0213/8. I see little hope of being able to surrender any ships.
(C.in C. Nore, 1514/8).
A.M.0213/8. The four A/S Trawlers recently transferred from W.A.Command can now be returned.

2. A further Hunt is an urgent requirement for A/A escort between South Coast Ports and Bristol Channel.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1745/8).
Your 0213/8. Intend to lend the following sloops to C.in C. W.A: HASTINGS on relief, JAN VAN BRAKEL about 14/4, JASON on completion, Norwegian T/B SLEIPNER about middle of April. STORK and BLACK SWAN complete repairs early May. When these two latter ships have worked up I intend to lend FOWEY and GLEANER to C.in C. W.A. FOWEY and GLEANER have A/S and reasonable radius of action but not very powerful A/A armament which however should be sufficient to deal with the comparatively small scale of air attack to be expected in Northern latitudes. BLACK SWAN and STORK will be far more use to me on the Northern Escort Force between Methil and Scapa where there are continual air attacks on convoys.

My present force will now enable me to have two escorts for almost all convoys between Firth of Forth and Thames and any reduction to this number is most undesirable.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1851/8).

MANSUSIA. Your 1150/4. MANSUSIA intercepted in Skopen Fiord and allowed to proceed.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 0833/8).

Employment of O.10.H.32. H.33. After completion of repairs H.33 will be ready for service about 10/4 and H.32 about 12/4. O.10 is ready now.
In view of situation should these submarines return north for A/S training or should they be kept available together with STURGEON UNION and URGE to relieve submarines now on patrol.
(F.O.S. 1012/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Escorts from Iceland.

My 1756/4. In order to meet the very heavy escort commitments about 14/4, the following arrangements have been approved.

2. S.N.9 to be delayed, and three of 17th Division to be sailed to Iceland as soon as ready to escort S.D.One to U.K.

3. GARLAND, PIORUN, LEOPARD and LEGION to fuel in Iceland and be available for inward escort as desired by C.in C. Western Approaches.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1809/8).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Dover Gun Defences.

Admiralty 2152/3/1. Withdrawal of 5.5" guns on C.P.11 mountings from Dover area has been deferred, and will be reconsidered in three months time.
(D. of L.D. 1323/8 to G.H.Q. H.F.)

Movements.

LINCOLN.

Your 0800/7. Meet FURIOUS at 0800/9.
(C.in C. W.A. 0032/8 to LINCOLN).

VICTORIOUS. NAIAD.

Admty. 1905/7. On further consideration N.O.I.C. Tyne considers it very desirable that VICTORIOUS should sail a.m. 16/4 so as to allow more minesweepers for minesweeping. Proposed programme. Request C.S. 15 may sail NAIAD to act as A/A escort accordingly.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1752/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

A.F.D.13. My 2210/7/4. Operations postponed 24 hours until suitable A/A escort is available.
(C.in C. Nore, 1700/8).

DUNEDIN. My 2327/27/3. DUNEDIN should be sailed for Gibraltar now.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2126/8).
Sailed 2110 DUNEDIN. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0445Z/13.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2117/8).

Operations.

Interception of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. Note: For Force H signals see N.Atlantic.
Negative patrol from 1400/7 short of distilled water. Necessary to remain on the surface from 0001/9 until arrival.
E.T.A. 1300/9 230° Lizard Island 17.
(O.9. 0430/8 to F.O.S.)
Destroyers are to revert to normal notice for steam as in my 1225/22/3.
(C.in C. Nore, 1028/8 to D.16, D.21).
M.T.B's are to remain at Felixstowe for the present, reverting to normal notice.
(C.in C. Nore, 1141/8 to BEEHIVE).
Arrived 1128 KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, JERSEY.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1449/3).
H.50. SOKOL, SEALION, SUNFISH, OBERON, L.26, H.34, TORBAY, H.31, TUNA, TAKU, H.44 on patrol, between 44° 40'N., and 48° 50'N., and between 8° W., and 12° W.
(F.O.S. 1614/8, 1936/8 and 2358/8).
Now that submarines are leaving their patrol it is of increased importance that air reconnaissance be designed to give the best chance of detecting the depature of the battlecruisers.

2. All other considerations must stand aside.
(1st S.L. 1725/8).

/At 2000

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

At 2000 G.M.T. today C.in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with destroyer screen should return to Scapa.

2. REPULSE and destroyer screen are to proceed to Gibraltar and fuel.

3. HOOD and KENYA are to R/V in 50N., 21° W. QUEEN ELIZABETH is to be in 45° N., 23° W. Both these positions are to be reached at 1200/9 and patrols subsequently maintained in these respective vicinities.

4. Force H. should remain as desired south of 43°N.

5. A.C. Force H is to assume command of the forces operating in the Biscay area at 2000/8 G.M.T. and should issue any orders he may consider necessary.
(1st S.L. 1859/8).
A. CACHALOT is to leave patrol forthwith and proceed to Holy Loch as routed by S.3.

B. Remaining Submarines are to remain on patrol to prudent limit of endurance or until further orders are received and then to return to Falmouth.

C. Submarines are to pass to westward of 48° 30'N., 7° W. and report expected time of arrival when North of this position.

D. TUNA proceed to position 70 at 0200/9.
(F.O.S. 1921/8 to Submarines Area A).

A. Submarines have been ordered to remain on patrol until the limit of their endurance is reached.

B. Following positions are occupied but submarines will not report until at least 2 days after leaving patrol.
TIGRIS off Belle Isle.

TUNA	70.
H.44	73.
TAKU	71.
H.31.	74.
TORBAY	72.
H.34.	75.
L.26.	77.
OBERON	76.
SUNFISH.	78.
SEALION	79.
SOKOL	80.
H.50.	81.

/C.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

C. Numbered positions follow to QUEEN ELIZABETH and REPULSE.
(F.O.S. 1926/8 ; 1244/9).
My 1926. Particulars of S/M positions 70 to 82 inclusive.
(F.O.S. 1933/8 to QUEEN ELIZABETH, REPULSE

Denmark Strait Patrol.

Intend to leave Hvalfjord A.M./10th for Denmark Strait after boiler cleaning.
(C.S.1. 0733Z/8).

East Coast Patrol.

No A/P ships at Sheringham Buoy tonight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1103/8).

Operation DUNLOP.

ARGUS will be required to transport aircraft to Gibraltar for another operation similar to WINCH and is to load six operational Swordfish and up to 26 Hurricanes by lighter from Abbotsinch. The exact number of Hurricanes is to be determined by trial.

2. ARGUS is to be ready to sail as soon as aircraft have been embarked. Anticipated date by which embarkation will be complete should be reported as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1606/8).
My 1606/8. Code name forthis operation is DUNLOP.
(D.C.D.(H) 1640/8).
Admty's. 1119/7. Request I may be informed when to expect ARGUS. Owing to possibility of having to close river due to enemy action propose loading at Tail O' The Bank.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1744/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Danish.
Dutch,
and French
Coasts.

On 7/4 Six Blenheims set out to attack shipping off the Danish coast, about 40 fishing boats of 80/300 tons 20 miles N. W. of Blaavands Huk were attacked by one Blenheim scoring one direct hit. Second Blehheim attacked the same fleet causing one vessel to heel badly and settle low in the water. It then attacked a wireless station two miles south East of Blaavands Huk. The remaining four Blenheims all found targets scoring a direct hit on a small vessel, narrowly missing a cargo vessel of 1500 tons and a trawler of 150 tons.
Five Blenheims carried out a sweep off the West and East Frisians but saw nothing to attack.

A Further six aircraft swept the N.W. Coast of France East of the Cherbourg Peninsula, two of them bombed two trawlers North West of Le Havre, but no hits are claimed.

Eight Blenheims set out to attack the Iron and Steel Works and Power Station at Ijmuiden. Bursts were seen and a direct hit was registered.
(H.Q.B.C. 0201/8).

Patrols.

Air patrols today. STAB, HORNLI, S.A.3. and UNST already flown.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0930/8).
PL/G11/8/4. In order to report and attack enemy battle cruisers leaving Brest one A/C of 22 S.P.U. R O N armed with torpedo is to patrol line Pierres Noires to Basse du Lis from 2100/8 to midnight.
(H.Q. 19 Group, 1738/8 to St. Eval).

Sweeps off French Coast.

Plots from CHL Station indicate enemy surface craft activity in positions 49° 45'N., 2° 35'E., 50° 45'N., 2° 50'E. 50° 40'N., 0° 20'E., at approx: 1030/8.
Four A/C to carry out sweep to cover these positions.
(Chatham, 1155/8).

/offensive swe

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Offensive sweep to be instituted by two A/C of 53 Squadron armed 250 lb. GP A/C to approach Gironde from West and sweep up coast at visibility distance finishing off Brest at last light. (H.Q. 19 Group, 1448/8).

Kiel, Bremerhaven, Emden, bombed.

Night 7/8 April. An attack on Kiel by 208 Aircraft assisted by moonlight and perfect visibility consituted the largest and most successful raid yet made on a German port. 190 tons H.E. and 56 tons incendiary dropped.

In addition 20 aircraft successfully attacked Bremerhaven and 10 aircraft again attacked Emden. (H.Q.B.C. 1758/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.Even.

Convoy AGENT being bombed. My position 54° 40'N., 1° W. (WALLACE 0110/8).
My 0110. 2 bombs, no hits. (WALLACE, 0128/8).

Arbroath (bombed Night 7/8).

My 2318/7. Number of aircraft passed over Station and one attacked when searchlights close to aerodrome switched on. (Arbroath, 0132/8).

Glasgow Area. Air Attack.

0500 Glasgow area appears to be clear of raiders. Damage so far reported not extensive. Bombs H.E. and incendiary reported in Glasgow area. One Merchant ship under construction No. 433 in Connells Yard damaged by H.E. Bomb in No.1 Hold, also frame shed and furnaces hit. One furnace demolished and one damaged. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0545/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

No damage to Naval Establishments. Details are not yet available but comparatively slight damage believed sustained by the following shipyards. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2255/8).

Firth of Forth Area bombed.

Approximately 120 enemy aircraft operated in Forth area between 2115/7 and 0500/8. Few bombs and a number of incendiaries dropped. No damage to Naval property. One unexploded parachute mine in domestic quarters Arbroath. Low cloud apparently frustrated attacks. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0825/8).

NAERABERG sunk.

(Faroes Trawler). My 2238/6. Ship on passage Faroes to Fleetwood, attacked and sunk by enemy A/C at 1100/6 in approximate position 60° 30'N., 05° 30'W. Whole crew of 17 now at Lyness and will be returned to Faroes when passage can be arranged. No casualties. (A.C.O.S. 1002/8).

LOCH LEE
LOCH AWE attacked.

At 0935/7 Aberdeen trawlers LOCH LEE and LOCH AWE on passage Faeroes to Aberdeen were attacked by Fock Wulf A/C in 61° 02'N., 02° 05'W. Two bombs dropped close to each trawler but no damage or casualties except from Cannon shell. Trawlers proceeding Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S. 1015/8).

Belfast bombed.

Air attack last night (a) Harland and Wolff Admiralty work not affected. Aircraft shops four and half acres completely destroyed by land mine direct hit. (b) Two officers and seven ratings wounded, ten employees of Harland and Wolff killed. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1227/8).

Yarmouth bombed.

Air Raid damage Yarmouth base 0030 to 0515 as follows. (O.C.W. Shotley, 1330/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BROOM Attacked.

(British 347 tons). At 0015/7, in 51° 36'N., 5° 48'W. aircraft machine gunning. Several bullet holes above waterline into cabin and afterhold. No casualties, none missing. Vessel proceeding Swansea. Aircraft approached from North.
(Surveyor Customs, Newry 1500/8).

(Bombed 3/4). GEDDINGTON COURT.

Propose sailing for Rosyth at 0800 tomorrow. E.T.A. Forth Bridge 1100/9.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1714/8).

Tyne. Enemy A/C in sea.

Blyth's 0342/8. Master of S.S. GLENPARK reports that at 0340/8 an enemy plane fell into the sea 2 miles east of 20 C buoy, on fire. Red glare falling into sea also reported by P.W.S.S. Tyne at that time.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1747/8).

Harwich bombed. LORNA DOONE (Paddle Minesweeper) damaged.

At about 1200 today 3 or 4 hostile A/C flew over Harbour and dropped two or three salvoes of bombs. LORNA DOONE berthed at Harwich Pier damaged by near miss requires docking. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1830/8).

Convoy F.N.51.

Enemy aircraft bomber attacking Convoy F.N.51.
(HOLDERNESS 2100/8).
My 2100. No hits or damage.
(HOLDERNESS 2108/8).
One enemy aircraft attacking odd numbered F.N.Convoy in 52° 45'N., 2° 12'E.
(Rosyth W/T 2355/8).

Convoy F.S.Odd.

Enemy aircraft bombing odd-numbered F.S.Convoy in 53° 33'N., 0° 58'E.
(CATTISTOCK, 2137/8).

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Belfast.

Port of Belfast closed owing to suspected enemy minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0215/8).
Belfast Lough East of Grey Point open to shipping.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1041/8).
Port of Belfast is now open.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1430/8).

AHAMO.

(British Tanker, 8621 tons). Mined and sinking in 053° 22'N., 000° 59'E.
PINTAIL standing by. Request immediate assistance.
(WOLFHOUND, 0219/8).
AHAMO stern submerged and abandoned. Have rescued Commodore, his assistant and 29 survivors 4 slightly injured (corrupt group) H.A. quick firing guns (currupt groups). Have thoroughly searched area. Am rejoining convoy.
(PINTAIL, 0339/8).
Ycur 0219. Tug has been sent.
(N.O.I.C. Humber, 0426/8).
Tug PRIZEMAN left Immingham at 0446 to assist AHAMO.
(F.O.Humber, 0535/8).
Arrival PINTAIL with survivors from AHAMO at 1130.
(F.O.Humber, 1138/8).
Wreck of AHAMO in 053° 22'N., 000° 59'E.,
(C.in C. Nore, 2009/8).
(Capt: S.6. 2150/8 to URGE).

Clyde.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 2345/7. River is only closed above boom. Ships may proceed as far as Rothesay Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0538/8).
Mines reported in Clyde off Flagship Buoy and in the river off John Browns. Several U.X. bombs in river. River will remain closed until sweeping has been carried out.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0545/8).
Clyde open to limited traffic as follows.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1328/8).

/My 0538/8.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

On 0538/8. River is now only closed above Princes Pier. Ships are to keep well clear of the following dangerous areas.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1600/8).
Amend my 1600/8 to read. River is now only closed above Great Harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1650/8).

River Thames. — Mines reported in River Thames, Galleons Reach and St. Clements Reach. Traffic between Gravesend and Tower Bridges stopped until position is classified.
(F.O.I.C. London, 0615/8).
All traffic in River Thames stopped between Tower Bridge and Southend.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1058/8).
Cancel my 1058/8. Navigation may now be resumed throughout the river. Ships passing through St. Clements Reach are to keep well to the North.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1345/8).

Operation J.O. — Operation O completed. Nothing to report.
(D.20 0715/8).

Thames Estuary. — Unexploded mine, parachute attached, on recreation ground. Wainscott School, between Upnor and Hoo.
(C.in C. Nore, 0745/8).

Newhaven Controlled Minefield. — Will be in operation from noon today.
(F.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0920/8).

Barrow Observation Minefield. — Laying completed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0946/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

German Mine off Needles. — 1 German mine type X swept and sunk in 190° Needles Light 6 miles on 7/4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0936/8).

Floating Cylinders seen. — At 0745/8 in 54° 45' N. 0° 24' W. A/C saw 3 Metal cylinders painted black with white stencilled letters at one end. Cylinders apparently not connected together. They were 5 to 6 feet long and about 2 feet in diameter all floating same way up and all had a small hole in the top. They were floating high in the water. SOUTHDOWN was informed. (Fitreavie 1030/8).

Amble. — Port of Amble closed owing to suspected mine laying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1234/8).

Milford Haven. — My 1052/7.
Second, Third and fourth Mines detonated off St. Anns Head on 7/4 as follows.
(F.O.C. Milford Haven 1258/8).

Liverpool. — Port opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1300/8).

ICARUS
INTREPID — My 1303/7. ICARUS ready for service.
Request information whether mines should be retained on board as this is undesirable in view of possible air attack.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1327/8).
1. ICARUS is to disembark mines.
2. INTREPID and ICARUS are to remain under the orders of C.in C. Portsmouth subject to them being held at 24 hours notice to embark reduced outfits of mines. (D.D.O.D.H. 1615/8).

2 British Mines destroyed. — 2 British mines destroyed on 6/4 57° 23' N. 14° 47' W. and 57° 04' N. 13° 30' W.
(ARBUTUS 1805/8).

Holyhead. — Holyhead now open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1936/8)

S.N.9. — My 2211/4. AGAMEMNON will not now be present on these dates. Amend second position to read (details). (R.A.M.L. 2021/8).

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Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy M/V's off Ushant on 7/4.

Aircraft reports 5 small vessels with one larger possibly destroyer in 48° 08' N. 05° 22' W. at 2220/7 course 220° 10 knots. (C.in C. Plymouth 0049/8 to D.S.)
Aircraft reports 2 ships approx. 4000 tons and 2 smaller ships about 1000 tons in 48° 6' N. 4° 50' W. at 2130/7. Course 200° 6 to 8 knots.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0149/8 to D.S.).

Kiel.

R/C shows SCHEER, LUTZOW, and two HIPPER class cruisers at Kiel on 7/4.
(D.D.I.C. 0130/8).

Brest.

Photographs of Brest at 1530/7 show 1 Battle Cruiser alongside T.D. Station and the other in Westernmost dry dock.
(D.D.I.C. 0344/8).
My 0344/8.
Photographs also show 2 destroyers in Rade Abri.
Harbour partially obscured by cloud.
(D.D.I.C. 1253/8).
My 1253/8. Further examination shows 3 destroyers in Rade Abri of which one has been present since 5/4. (D.D.I.C. 1730/8).

M/V's off Lorient.

A/C reports Two Merchant vessels course 068°, 10 knots. My position 47° 33' N. 3° 26' W. at 0855. (Burnham Radio 0715/8).

Bremen.

Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance of Bremen today shows one 8" cruiser present, probably SEYDLITZ.
(D.D.I.C. 1812/8).

Foreign Deep Sea Fishing Craft.

Admiralty Message "EW". It is suspected that foreign fishing vessels may be reporting movements of our shipping.
In order to obtain detailed information of these vessels, Masters should render a report to the N.C.S.O. at their first port of call of all foreign deep-sea fishing vessels sighted in the East Atlantic, English Channel, North Sea.
The following particulars are, where possible, to be supplied. (D.T.D. 2104/8).

German Main Units.

Positions. (D.D.I.C. 2130/8) Sea Lion Copy

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Bunkers.

In order that an estimate of bunker requirements may be made, Masters of all ships sailing in convoy should be informed, with adequate notice, of the approx. distance on the convoy route to U.K. port and the speed at which their vessels will be required to proceed during the voyage. (D.T.D. 1134/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Yugo-Slav Ships

To be treated as allied ships in regard to the supply of confidential documents. (D.T.D. 1209/8).

Independent Ships, North Channel.

A.M. 1922/3 and 1821/4. Ships of 12 knots and above sailing from Liverpool for ports north thereof as far North as and including Clyde, and for overseas via North Channel, may proceed independently.
Independently sailed ships of over 13 knots arriving from overseas via North Channel may proceed as far South as Liverpool independently. (D.T.D. 2101/8, to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

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: Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PEGASUS.	My 1311/28. PEGASUS has developed major crank shaft defects. Cannot comply with programme. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1211/8).
COMORIN. (Lost by fire 6/4)	Intend proceed Greenock arriving there about noon tomorrow. Survivors 35 officers 145 ratings. Casualties. (BROKE 1303Z/8).
ASHBURY	Returned from O.G.058. Due to collision with Dutch Trawler 301. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1430/8).
PRIMROSE	P. c. and s. 2000/8, 061° 15' N. 017° 50' W. 306° 13. Asdic will not transmit. (PRIMROSE 1906/8).
PRIMULA	Has not sailed on O.G.58 and has returned to Harbour for repairs to A/S gear. Damage caused when shipping dome. Estimate repairs cannot be completed before 1000/9. Capt. D. Londonderry 1950/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Bunkers and speed.	My 2014/10/2. To enable estimate of bunker requirements Masters of ships sailing in N.C. convoys should be informed of the speed at which their ships will be required to steam during the voyage. (D.T.D. 1135/8, to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).
N.A. Command Limits.	Admty. 1806/7 para (a) (Northern limit of North Atlantic Command). Does this alter the Gibraltar Intelligence Area? (S.O.I., Gib. 1544/8, to Admty.).
Hurricanes, Gibraltar.	My 1606/8. Request report whether you have any recommendations for improving arrangements for transfer of Hurricanes at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1722/8 to F.O.C.N.A.).
FIJI	To be detached so as to arrive Freetown by 18/4. (1st S.L., 1829/8 to F.O. Force H).
LIVORNO (German)	LIVORNO left 7/4 for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2100/8).
PORT DE FRANCE	Intercept 27.39 N. 28.06 W. attacked by British. Garrigues (thought to be name of Master) (ends). (Valentia Radio, 2242/8, to Admty.). Note:- Gross tonnage 4279 tons Left St. Thomas 27/3 for Casablanca.

South Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.	D/F bearing from Simonstown and Durban at 1517Z/7 indicates position within 200 miles 033° S. 012° E. reliability 70% and may refer to raider C, (No.16). Bearing may have been taken at Northern D/F station. (C.in C. S.A. 0141N/8, to S.A. Stn.). My 0141N/8 D/F. Bearings at 1556Z/8 indicate Units moving westwards. Position within 200 miles 039° S. 023° E. Reliability 70%. Units possibly Auxiliary. (C.in C. S.A., 2031N/8, to S.A. Sqdn.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

S.L.71 MAURITIUS	My 1901/4/4. S.L.71 sails p.m./8 MAURITIUS arrived Freetown a.m./8 (A) If Mauritius sails 9th or 10th will overtake convoy 200-400 miles from Freetown but will have to be relieved in about 33° N. to fuel at Gibraltar or fuel at sea. (B) Alternatively MAURITIUS sailing 3 days after convoy could overtake in lat. Cape Verde Islands and then stay to about lat. 44° N. before proceeding U.K., but this would entail remaining in the convoy by day and night to economise fuel. MAURITIUS requires boiler cleaning and time in harbour to make good accumulated defects. Recommended alternative A be adopted, ship proceeding to Gibraltar to make good defects and boiler clean if alternative escort can be provided. (C.in C. S.A., 1253N/8, to Admty.). Your 1253N/8. Alternative (A) Approved. (A.C.N.S.(F), 0034/9).
COMORIN	Your 1351/7. Survivors (in GLENARTNEY) are from COMORIN who caught fire in N.W. Approaches on 7/4 and had to be sunk. (D.O.D.(F) 1614/8 to C.in C. S.A.) Note by W.D. COMORIN caught fire on 6/4 not 7/4.
Dakar	Asking for information about defences etc. (War Office 1645/8 to G.O.C. W. Africa).
Shipping Route.	Request any amendments to route given in my 1316/1 which you have made on account of U/B reported off Freetown. (D.T.D. 1650/8, to C.in C. S.A.).
NEWCASTLE W.S.7 NELSON	Request you will detach NEWCASTLE forthwith to proceed at best speed to St.Helena and fuel. After fuelling NEWCASTLE is to take over escort of W.S.7 as arranged by C.in C. S.A. NELSON on relief to return to Freetown. NEWCASTLE to escort Durban portion of W.S.7 to Durban and then carry out wear and waste test. (1st S.L. 1739/8, to R.A.S.A.D.).

/Convoy Escorts
S. of Freetown. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy Escorts S. of Freetown.

In view of definite location of German Pocket Battleships in Home Waters and of battle cruisers at Brest, strength of major convoy escorts can be reduced to one cruiser South of Freetown.
(1st S.L., 1741/8 to C.in C's S.A. E.I.,etc.)

CILICIA S.L.71.

Departure 1630/8 CILICIA as ocean escort to convoy S.L.71 and thence to Freetown in accordance with C.in C. S. A. 2015/7/4.
Local A/S escort CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, CROCUS, MARGUERITE until a.m./17.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1761N/8, to Admty.).
S.L.71 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2221/8 - filed in Shipping).

DORSETSHIRE ILLUSTRIOUS

Request you will arrange for DORSETSHIRE to escort ILLUSTRIOUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, to Freetown.
Decision will be made later as to whether ILLUSTRIOUS will part company in vicinity of St. Helena and proceed independently using high speed at night, to Trinidad, or continue to Freetown.
(1st S.L. 1752/8, to C.in C. S.A.).

LECH

Rio de Janeiro reports German LECH will leave Quay tomorrow 9/4 and may load additional cargo in stream.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2211Z/8, to H.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Proposed Pipe Line.

In event blockage of Canal and destruction of (?Haifa) Refinery, proposed pipeline is vital to Army as transport by rail of naval fuel would throw impossible load on railways and available tank wagons. R.E. and Naval Authorities consider scheme feasible. If proposal and expenditure approved by Admiralty have offered to free 110 miles pipe and to undertake supervision of contracts. (C.in C. M.E., 0845/8, to W.O.).

/ OLYMPUS ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

OLYMPUS

Proceed forthwith to patrol off Palermo.
(Capt. S.1, 1057/8, to OLYMPUS).
My 1057/8. Object of patrol destruction of transport leaving Palermo for Sicily Channel. (Areas dangerous to mines).
(Capt. S.1, 1237/8, to OLYMPUS).

Libya H.Q. Moves.

Operational Summary No.303 up to 1200 hours 9/4. Situation regarding communications as follows. Communication has been maintained between this headquarters and H.Q. R.A.F. Cyrenaica except for break 1200 to 1615 hours 7/4. Inability of Sqdns. to report operations due mainly to rapid and frequent movements. Forward Ops. H.Q. still in Tobruk area and presumed also Fighter and A.C. Sqdns. Rear H.Q. moving to Mersa Matruh or Maaten Bagush. 257 Wing and heavy bombers concentrating Fuka area 9/4.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1154/8).

French S/M's.

French Submarines SOUFFLEUR, CAIMAN, and MARSOUIN Escorted by Sloop ELAN leave Bizerta today for Beirut. (Route).
These submarines should not be interfered with provided they remain on the surface and in company with their escort.
Attention drawn to Admty. 373 A of 28/8/40 and 452 A of 8/10/40.
(C.in C. Med., 1203/8, to Med. Fleet).

Piraeus losses and mining, use of alternative anchorages.

Your 2041/7 Army and S.T.O. arranged last night to use Volo, Khalkis, Eleusis, Dot Scaramanga.
Mine marking organisation was far from perfect and is doubly difficult as Cdr. Douglas Watson's death has taken the one officer who had made all arrangements. They were trying flash off mines with a loop all yesterday but without success. Greek Captain of Port and Admiral in Charge of area have both been relieved and a captain put in general charge.
British ships lost are CYPRIAN PRINCE and CLAN FRASER by direct hits and CITY OF ROUBAIX set on fire from CLAN FRASER explosion and subsequently blew up in the harbour. Greek losses due to fire estimated at 60 lighters 20 caiques 2 tugs and about 8 medium to small steamships.
(N.A. Athens, 1203/8, to C.in C. Med.).

/ Libya Withdrawals. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.4.41941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Libya Withdrawals.

Operational Summary No.302 up to 1200 hours 8.4.41.
Our units withdrawing East of Frontier except for Fighter and Army Co-operations Squadrons at Tobruk. Arrangements being made to operate mobile advanced landing ground East of Tobruk. Units have lost some M.T. but little other technical equipment.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1213/8).

LATONA (minelayer)

Admty. 1216/4. I should much prefer LATONA, high speed and endurance both being essential. Should like LATONA sent out as soon as possible, her working up being done out here.
(C.in C. Med., 1436/8 to Admty.).

Germans at Salonika

Operational Summary No. 117.
German forces have entered Salonika 1600 hours G.M.T.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Greece, 1750/8).

Air raid on Piraeus

Position 8/4 D MOLLER GOALPARA Awaiting escort CLAN FRASER. Sunk in berth CLAN CUMMING K MOLER and DEVIS damaged. Commerce CITY OF ROUBAIX and CYPRIAN PRINCE sunk. Three ships berths and cranes completely out of action. Offices and contents demolished. DELANE BENRINNES CITY OF NORWICH CINGALESE PRINCE expected to arrive Alexandria daylight 11/4. (Div. S.T.O. Piraeus 1821/8).

TETRARCH

Cancel my 1653/3. (Concentrate on coast between Burat and El Brega) Concentrate on area Khoms. Cape Misurath. On way to new area endeavour to transmit a brief summary of traffic encountered.
(Capt. S.1, 1845/8,

Greece, Ammunition.

Situation after loss of cargoes NORTHERN PRINCE CLAN FRASER, etc. (B.M.A., Athens 2200/8, to C.in C.M.E.).

East Indies.

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA

Adm.Muselier is anxious that SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA may take part in active operations in Red Sea, or if too late, may still show the flag in Massawa Harbour.
Request you detach her from present duty of escorting FORT BINGER and send her to the Red Sea at best speed.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0015/8, to C.in C. E.I.).

/CAPETOWN
(torpedoed 7/4) ....

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CAPETOWN (torpedoed 7/4).

CAPETOWN was torpedoed by an E-Boat at about 2315Z/7 when off Mersa Kuba. Extent of damage not known but she was still able to make signals at 0100Z/8. KINGSTON and KIMBERLEY are proceeding to her assistance Swordfish will hunt E-Boat at dawn. (C.in C. E.I., 0226Z/8, to Admty. etc.).
My 2324/7. CAPETOWN was torpedoed starboard side in B boiler room at 2315/7 while patrolling off Kuba in 016° 10' N. 039° 16' E. Ship was steering North and one torpedo track was seen approaching ship approximately 100 yards off ship. Torpedo was running on surface and explosion was a comparatively small one. Considered that enemy was an E-Boat. No boat seen.
CAPETOWN is being towed by PARRAMATTA up Swept Channel and I propose PARRAMATTA and CAPETOWN should proceed Port Sudan where any possible repairs could be temporarily effected At 0400Z my p.c. and s. are 016° 18' N. 039° 15' E. 004°, 4 knots approx. Sea calm. Have directed INDUS to take over duties of S.O. Force G. Details of damage and casualties. (CAPETOWN 0340Z/8, 0441Z/8, to C.in C. E.I.).

Italian Destroyers.

My 1740/7. It appears probably the sunk destroyers reported in my 1056/5 and 0730/2 are same destroyers. If so both CESARE BATTISTI and VINCENZO ORSINI are still unaccounted for. (C.in C. E.I., 0228Z/8, to Admty. etc.).

Massawa Occupied.

My 0228/8. N.L.O's now in Massawa report
(a) at 0314Z/8 seven enemy ships left harbour and fired on British troops advancing up coast.
(b) at 1137Z/8 Massawa was being occupied by our troops.
(c) at 1209Z/8 between 10 and 12 ships including small warship(s) had left Massawa 12 Swordfish are operating in the vicinity of Massawa. One bombed a small destroyer in Massawa harbour at 0941Z; no direct hit. (C.in C. E.I., 1318Z/8, to Admty.).
Destroyer reported to be VINCENZO G. ORSINI see 0540/9.
R.A.F. attacked enemy positions W. of Massawa on 8/4. Ships in harbour also attacked. One small ship was hit and there were several near misses. (D.S. 584/11/4).

AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA
QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA
QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH

Your 1923/4. Fuelling arrangements. (C.in C. E.I., 0800Z/8, to D. of S.T.).

CORNWALL
W. S.6.

My 0556/2 CORNWALL is to escort W.S.6 to position H, my 1250/18/3 refers, and is then to proceed to Aden. (C.in C. E.I., 0806Z/8, to S.N.O. Red Sea). Admty. 2241/6. Intend CORNWALL to accompany EAGLE to Capetown, leaving Aden about 18/4. (C.in C. E.I., 0808Z/8, to Admty.).

Red Sea, destroyers

Admty. 2004/7. Situation in Red Sea is not yet clear and has changed slightly since above message was made. Retention of three remaining destroyers for a few days longer is necessary. My 0226/8 and 1316/8 refer. Each ship will be released to Mediterranean at very earliest possible moment. (C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/8, to Admty.).

Massawa Occupied.

N.O.I.C. Massawa reports Massawa occupied 1300Z/8. Harbour blocked. Extensive demolition. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/8, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

U.S. Coastguard Cutters.

Crews to be formed from Ratings now in MALAYA and RESOLUTION as arranged by C.O., MALAYA. N.A. Washington, is requested to arrange suitable help with taking over machinery as our ratings have no experience with turbo electric drive. (D.P.S. 1131/8 to N.A. Washington, MALAYA, RESOLUTION).

Suspicious Tanker.

British KHETI reports sighting half loaded tanker 054° 35' N. 035° 10' W. at 1400Z/27/3. (Details). Altered course on being sighted from 090° to 270° and increased from slow speed to 15 knots. Unknown vessel made no Q Q Q Q Message and gave impression of waiting rendezvous. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1142/8, to Admty.)

/ CANTON ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CANTON — Request earliest indication of refitting port for CANTON. (D.O.D.(F) 1210/8 to B.A.R.M.).

MARAJO boarding incident. — N.A. Rio's 1711/7. Request immediate report. (Hd. of M. 1441/8 to M.O.I.C. Trinidad).
Your 1711/7. Immediate investigation ordered. In view of possible repercussions on visits of H.M. Ships to Brazilian Ports, request you take early opportunity of expressing to Brazilian authorities our concern at such an incident having occurred.
So far as is known, no notification was made of MARAJO's visit to Port of Spain.
(Head of M. 1610/8 to N.A., Rio).
Your 1441/8. Following is summary of Governor of Trinidad's telegram to British Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro, MARAJO failed to comply with normal procedure for naval vessels of requesting pratique by W/T on approach. Civilian Officer of Harbour Master's Staff (not Naval) boarded vessel on arrival at night and unfortunately proceeded to seal wireless as a normal procedure for merchant ships. No protest made here except Brazilian Consul enquired from local government whether this was general measure of precaution and was told yes, it not being appreciated Consul was referring to MARAJO. Most grateful for conveying suitable expression of regret.
No delay occurred in despatch of cable in English but reply in Portuguese temporarily withheld for normal investigation by censor and released through Brazilian Consul when censor satisfied that it was a Government telegram. (Ends).
MARAJO expected here shortly and I will (?group omitted) suitable apology.
MARAJO frequently calls here.
(Capt. 1/c Trinidad, 1815/8, to Admty.).

PRINCE ROBERT — Your 00357/6. C.in C. A.W.I. 0952/27/2. Regret PRINCE ROBERT's E.T.A. Suva cannot be advanced from May 3rd. She will then be available to escort AWATEA to Vancouver. Future disposition of PRINCE ROBERT is being reconsidered and she may not be available for further convoys from Southern Waters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1516/8, to N.Z.N.B.).

/ R.C.N. Corvettes. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

R.C.N. Corvettes. Your 1630/4.R.C.N.crews will remain with the ten corvettes now in U.K. but it would be appreciated if the vessels were loaned to R.C.N. for the duration of the war or such time as they continue to be manned by Canadian personnel. Conditions of agreement to be similar to those embodied in C.A.F.O. 307/41. All cost of upkeep and maintenance to be chargeable to Canadian Govt. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1616/8 to Admty.).

Spanish MARQUIS DE COMILLAS Do instructions in your 2210/6 over-ride those in your 2315/15/12 regarding non intervention in American neutral zone? (C.in C. A.W.I., 1632/8, to Admty.). Reply: No. (D.N.I.. 1642/9).

SURCOUF After consultation with Admiral Muselier it has been decided that SURCOUF should return to U.K. forthwith and prepare for special service abroad. SURCOUF is to part company from convoy forthwith and proceed (route).(F.O.S. 2154/8, to SURCOUF).

Convoy escorts: re Command Your 1817/3. Captain of A.M.C. who is senior to Captain of capital ship cannot be ordered to place himself under command of his junior officer but you should request Captains of A.M.C's concerned to make this voluntary surrender of command. Alternatively it will be necessary to relieve them by less senior officers. (1st S.L. 222/9 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ESKDENE	British 3829 tons. Following has been read. 8333 34.43 N., 24.21 W. ESKDENE torpedoed 0548/8. (Gibraltar W/T, 0618/8, F.O.C.N.A. 0934/8 to PANDORA). Now taking to boats. (Gibraltar W/T, T.O.R. 0652/8).
UMONA (torpedoed 30/3)	FOXHOUND reports picking up three survivors from UMONA in 07 25' N. 13 35' W. who state ship sank 2000/6. (C.in C. S.A., 1007/8, to Admty.) My 1007/8. Survivors now indicate ship torpedoed by U-boat 30/3. (C.in C. S.A., 1641N/8, to Admty.). UMONA, British, 3767 tons, bound from Durban for Freetown and London with general cargo, had sailed from Walvis Bay on 20/3 (D.S. 582).
Search for ship's boats reported 6/4.	Have been searching the area since 1500/7. Nothing sighted, weather report. (VIRITY, 0700/8, to C.in C. W.A.).
WORCESTERSHIRE (torpedoed 3/4)	Arrived WORCESTERSHIRE escorted by HURRICANE. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1755/8).
VOLENDAM (torpedoed 30/8/1940).	Dutch S.S. VOLENDAM, now beached 1 mile east of Helensburgh, is required to proceed to Mersey for repair, and the following arrangements have been made. Necessary protection from air attack requested. (D.S.T., app. D.O.D.(H), 1841/8, to C.in C.WA.)
JHELUM (torpedoed 21/3)	Survivors landed near Dakar 6/4 state JHELUM (British 4038 tons) torpedoed 2000/21 about 300 miles N.W. Cape Verde Island after convoy (S.L.68) had scattered. (Names). 2 Indians died in boat. 2 boats with rest of crew missing. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2041N/8, to Admty.) (D.S., 583, 10/4).

LINCOLN ELLSWORTH
(torpedoed 6/4)
BRAVERDALE
(torpedoed 1/4)
BRITISH RELIANCE
(torpedoed 3/4)

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ENDING OF

REEL K-5-B

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

Admiralty War Diaries 1-2-41 to 8-4-41, con'd from Reel K-4-B.	:-

O.N.I.

DATE: April 12, 1946

MACH. NO. 475

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